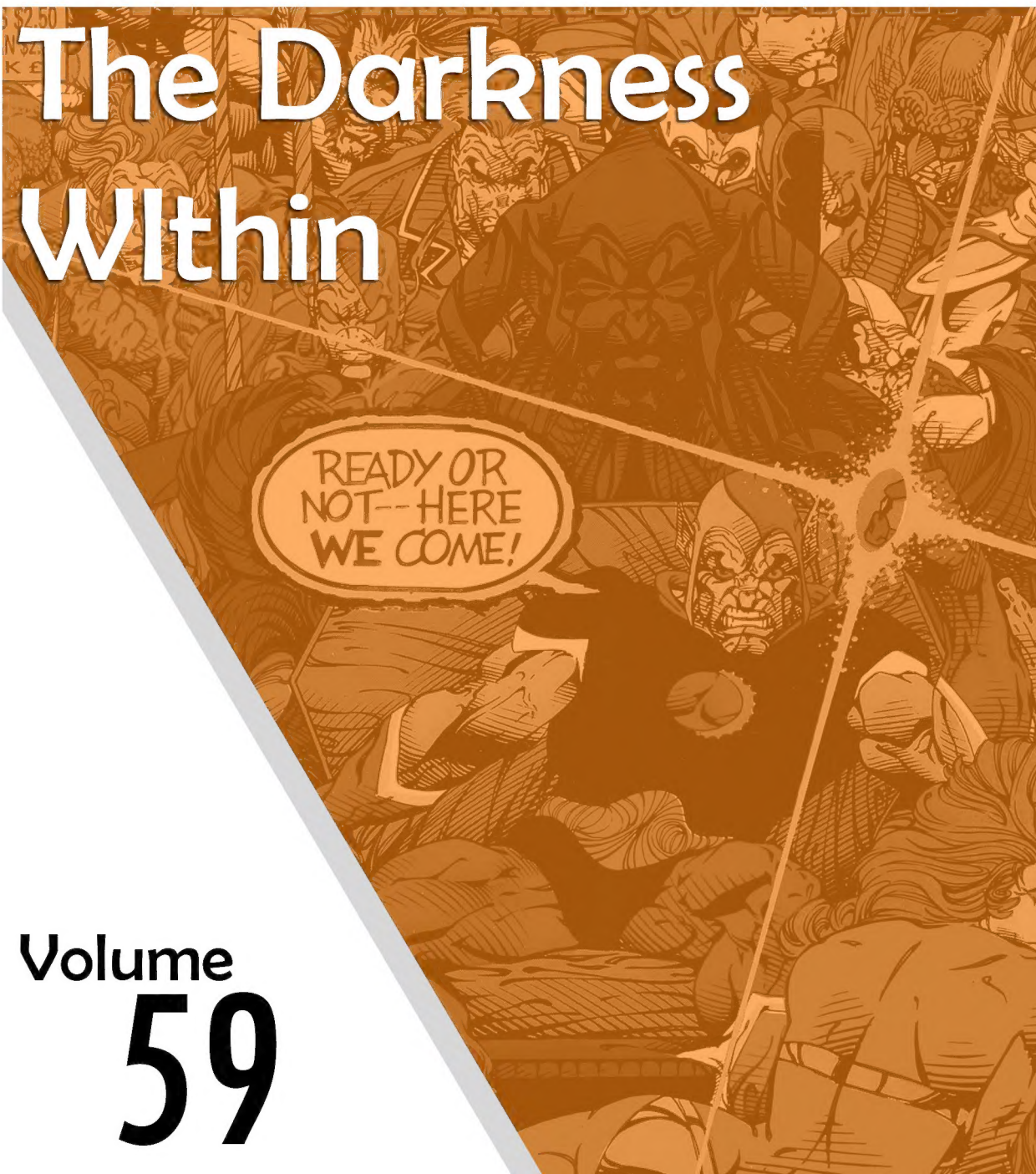
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

The Darkness Within



Volume 59

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS The Darkness Within 59

AFRICA. THE DARK CONTINENT.
IF YOU WANTED TO HIDE SOMETHING IN A PLACE WHERE NO ONE WOULD EVER FIND IT...
...THIS WOULD BE THAT PLACE.
...OR, AS CONRAD APTLY DUBBED IT...
IN 1890, WRITER JOSEPH CONRAD TRAVELED BY BOAT TO STANLEY FALLS, IN THE UPPER CONGO. HIS TRIP SERVED AS INSPIRATION FOR "HEART OF DARKNESS," A STORY ABOUT A VOYAGE OF EXPLORATION INTO THE HIDDEN SELF, NAMELY MAN'S CAPACITY FOR EVIL...
"The horror! The horror!"

ECLIPSO: THE DARKNESS WITHIN 1. Published by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1992 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed in Canada.
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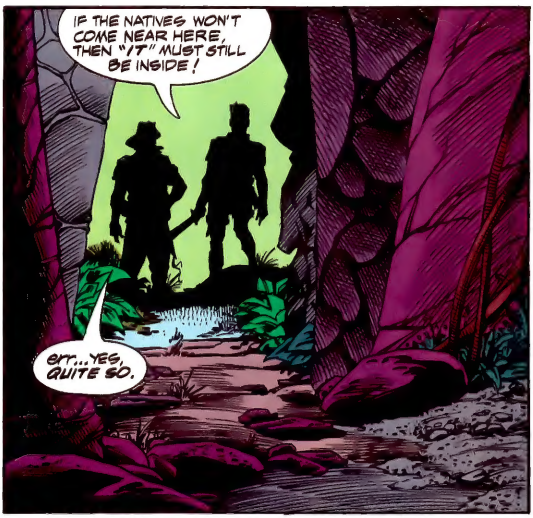
OCTOBER 6, 1890. SOMEWHERE NEAR LAKE TANGANYIKA...
DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON THAT WRITER'S FACE?
DYSENTERY, MY FOOT! HE DIDN'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR AN ADVENTURE OF THIS KIND!
CAN'T SAY AS I BLAME THE CHAP... FEELING A BIT QUEASY MYSELF!
BUCK UP, PROFESSOR! THANKS TO YOUR STUDIES INTO TRIBAL LORE, WE'VE AT LAST REACHED OUR ULTIMATE DESTINATION!
SOUNDS RATHER FINAL WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, OLD BOY!
NO! NO GO!
WHAT? SEE HERE, WE PAID YOU TO TAKE US THE WHOLE WAY!

I SAY!
LET THEM GO! THEY'D JUST BE IN THE WAY NOW!

STILL, STRIKES A RATHER OMINOUS NOTE...
NONSENSE!


IF THE NATIVES WON'T COME NEAR HERE, THEN "IT" MUST STILL BE INSIDE!
EH?...YES, QUITE SO.

AND YET, THE THING'S SO VALUABLE, THIS PLACE MUST BE FAIRLY WELL BOOBYTRAPPED, DON'T YOU THINK?
NEVER BEEN IN ONE THAT WASN'T! DUSTY OLD BOULDERS, ROTTING WOODEN STAKES,...
...STUFF'S REALLY EASY TO DODGE IF YOU WATCH YOUR STEP!
THEY DON'T CALL 'EM "BOOBY" TRAPS FOR NOTHING!

COMFORTING, THAT! BE A DAMNED GLOOMY PLACE TO MEET ONE'S MAKER, EH, OLD CHUM?
WHY, YES, PROFESSOR, IT CERTAINLY WOULD BE THAT!
BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST! SHINE YOUR LIGHT DOWN THAT STAIRCASE, SO I CAN--
YES! I SEE IT! THERE IT IS--
--THE FABLED HEART OF DARKNESS, A BLACK DIAMOND SO LARGE AND PERFECT AS TO BE VIRTUALLY PRICELESS!
WHAT A FIND!
FIND OF THE CENTURY!

CAN'T HELP WONDERING ABOUT LACK OF SAID BOOBYTRAPS, THOUGH.
IT'S SIMPLE.
YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT THE NATIVES BELIEVE THIS THING EMANATES EVIL!
THE TOMB WAS GUARDED BY OLD-FASHIONED SUPERSTITION!
ACTUALLY, THE TRIBAL PHRASE OUR GUIDE USED SUGGESTS SOMETHING A BIT MORE SINISTER!
SEEMS THE GEM DOESN'T SO MUCH EMANATE EVIL AS... WELL... ATTRACT IT!
SILLY ROT, eh?
OH, I DON'T KNOW...
..."PRICELESS" DOESN'T SOUND NEARLY AS GOOD, SPLIT TWO WAYS!
GOOD LORD!

JANUARY 12, 1891.
LONDON...
BONG! BONG! BONG!
The MOON STONE
IT SEEMS A PITY, SIR!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO CUT IT UP?
YES, INTO A THOUSAND PIECES! I CAN'T SELL IT THE WAY IT IS!
SUCH AN ENORMOUS TASK WILL TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME, M'LORD!
YOU HAVE ONE YEAR. EACH INDIVIDUAL GEM MUST BE PERFECT, FOR MAXIMUM VALUE!
I MUSTN'T BE ABLE TO TELL THEM APART!

ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER...
THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON ALWAYS FACES AWAY FROM THE EARTH, BUT SUNLIGHT BLEACHES ITS SURFACE.
AND YET...
...ETERNAL DARKNESS PERSISTS, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEPEST CRATER.
"ROSES HAVE THORNS, AND SILVER FOUNTAINS MUD; CLOUDS AND ECLIPSES STAIN BOTH MOON AND SUN,
"AND LOATHSOME CANKER LIVES IN SWEETEST BUD.

KEITH GIFFEN • ROBERT LOREN FLEMING • BART SEARS • RANDY ELLIOTT • MARK PENNINGTON • Gaspar • TOM McCRAW • MICHAEL EURY

CO-PLOTTERS — BREAKDOWN ARTIST — SCRIPTER — PENCILLER — INKERS — LETTERER — COLORIST — EDITOR

Special Thanks to BOB KAHAN and FRANK PITTARESE

STRANGE.
I KNOW I'VE FLOWN OVER THIS CRATER BEFORE... HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED SUCH AN ENORMOUS STRUCTURE?
IT'S MADE OUT OF SOME KIND OF MATERIAL I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED!
WINDOWS, WALLS, AND FRAMING, ALL OF A PIECE-- NO SEAMS OR JOINTS!
COULD THIS THING BE... ORGANIC?

GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT-- THE HARD WAY!
WHAT MAKES ME THINK THOSE BIG DOORS ARE GOING TO OPEN ALL BY THEMSELVES?
CREEAK
I HATE IT WHEN I'M RIGHT!
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
JUST AN ECHO... NOTHING TO GET ALARMED ABOUT!

WOW
WOW
WOW
BUT IT DOES MEAN THERE'S AIR IN HERE.
IT'S VERY HARD TO CONTROL YOUR TEMPER HERE...
WHO BUILT THIS PLACE? AND WHY??
AND HOW COME I SUDDENLY FEEL SO ANGRY?
...DON'T YOU FIND?
YOU... JUST GREW OUT OF THAT CHAIR!
I AM THE CHAIR! OR RATHER, THE CHAIR IS AN EXTENSION OF MY PALACE...
...WHICH IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF ME.

MY NAME IS ECLIPSO, AND I HAVE BEEN FAR TOO LONG WITHOUT A BODY OF MY OWN! FOR OVER A CENTURY I HAVE HIDDEN MY PALACE FROM SIGHT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AN ADVANTAGE OVER THOSE WITH SUPER-HUMAN POWERS!
YOU SEEM QUITE POWERFUL, SO I AM TAKING A CALCULATED RISK BY COMING OUT INTO THE OPEN!
YOU...ARE QUITE POWERFUL...?
MY NAME IS LAR GAND, AND I'M POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU IN A FAIR FIGHT!

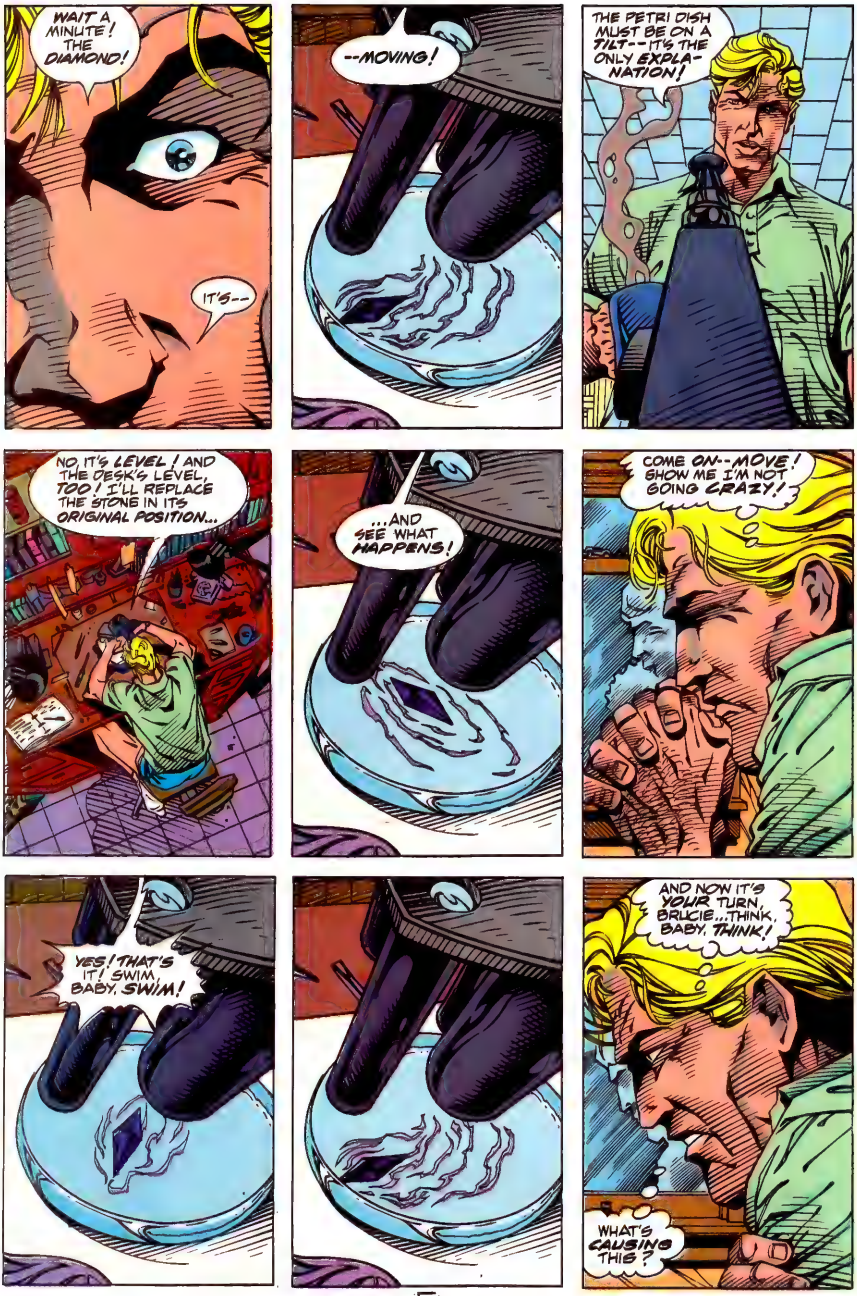
YOU LABOR UNDER TWO MISCONCEPTIONS, LAR GAND! FOR ONE THING, IT IS I WHO WILL BE "TAKING" YOU!
SCHWUCK!
AND THE OTHER?
THIS "FAIR FIGHT" BUSINESS!
WITHIN MY SANCTUM, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FAIR FIGHT! HERE, I AM ALL-POWERFUL!
OH, YEAH? WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO-- TURN INTO AN OTTOMAN AND TRIP ME?
YES! BUT I'M NOT FALLING INTO YOUR LITTLE TRAP!
WRONG.
SUCH A TEMPER! YOU WANT TO ATTACK ME... DON'T YOU, LAR GAND?
I'M BIG ENOUGH TO WALK AWAY FROM A FIGHT!!

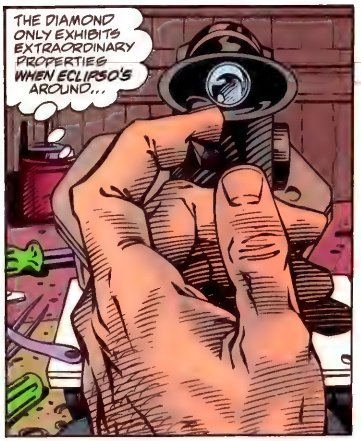
LAR GAND'S HEART WAS AS PURE AND STRONG AS HIS BODY! ANYWHERE ELSE, HE'D HAVE BEEN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ACQUIRE!
BUT HERE IN MY SANCTUM, I AM ABLE TO AMPLIFY THE SLIGHTEST GRIEVANCE INTO UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE FELT SUCH RAW POWER!
I CAN BARELY CONTAIN MYSELF!
THE VERY ACT OF STANDING STILL REQUIRES A MASSIVE EFFORT!
WHICH SHOULD MAKE FOR A VERY INTERESTING EXERCISE!

ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME! IF ONLY I'D KNOWN THIS WAS POSSIBLE...!
HE'S EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN SUPERMAN!
I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE SUPER-HUMANS A THREAT...
...NOW I REALIZE THAT THEIR POWERS ARE AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE, RIPE FOR EXPLOITATION!
I'M THROUGH HIDING! THE TIME HAS COME FOR A MORE DIRECT APPROACH!
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!

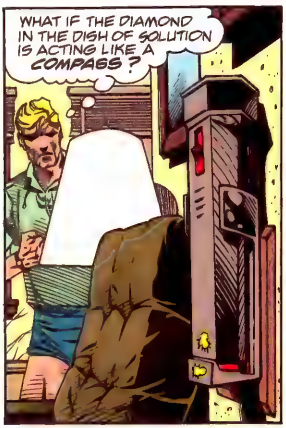
TODAY
MANHATTAN IS A STUDY IN CONTRASTS, A JEKYLL-HYDE AMALGAM OF SLIME AND THE SUBLIME.
THE REAL DIFFICULTY LIES IN SEPARATING THE TWO...
...JUST ASK DR. BRUCE GORDON!
WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?
DAMN.
I'M POSITIVE THAT THE KEY TO ECLIPSO'S DESTRUCTION LIES IN THE STRUCTURE OF HIS BLACK DIAMOND...
...BUT AS NEAR AS I CAN DETERMINE, THIS THING'S JUST AN ORDINARY STONE...

... EXCEPT, OF COURSE, WHEN ECLIPSO'S AROUND...
... WHICH, GOD WILLING, WON'T BE AGAIN FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST FOUND OUT THAT I POSSESSED AN EVIL HALF...
"IF I HADN'T BEEN SCRATCHED BY THAT DIAMOND...
"...ECLIPSO NEVER WOULD HAVE EXISTED!"
IT'S ALL MY FAULT! IF I WAS A BETTER PERSON, I'D BE ABLE TO CONTAIN ECLIPSO!
MY OWN EVIL IMPULSES ARE OBVIOUSLY TO BLAME FOR--


WAIT A MINUTE! THE DIAMOND!
IT'S--
--MOVING!
THE PETRI DISH MUST BE ON A TILT--IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION!
NO, IT'S LEVEL! AND THE DESK'S LEVEL, TOO! I'LL REPLACE THE STONE IN ITS ORIGINAL POSITION...
...AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
COME ON--MOVE! SHOW ME I'M NOT GOING CRAZY!
YES! THAT'S IT! SWIM, BABY, SWIM!
AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, BRUCIE...THINK, BABY, THINK!
WHAT'S CAUSING THIS?

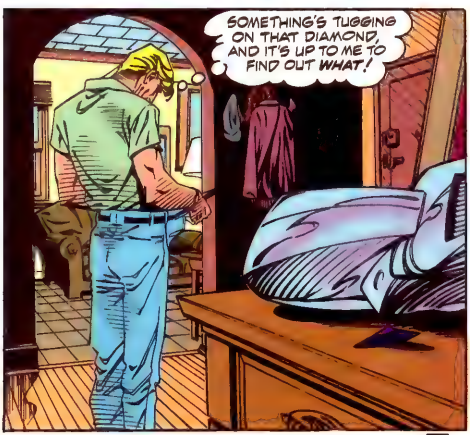

THE DIAMOND ONLY EXHIBITS EXTRAORDINARY PROPERTIES WHEN ECLIPSO'S AROUND...

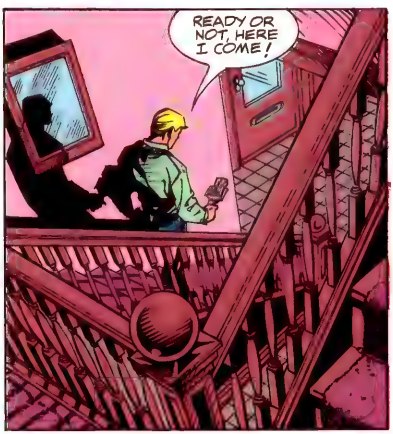
...THEREFORE, IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS--
--HE MUST BE NEARBY!


WHAT IF THE DIAMOND IN THE DISH OF SOLUTION IS ACTING LIKE A COMPASS?

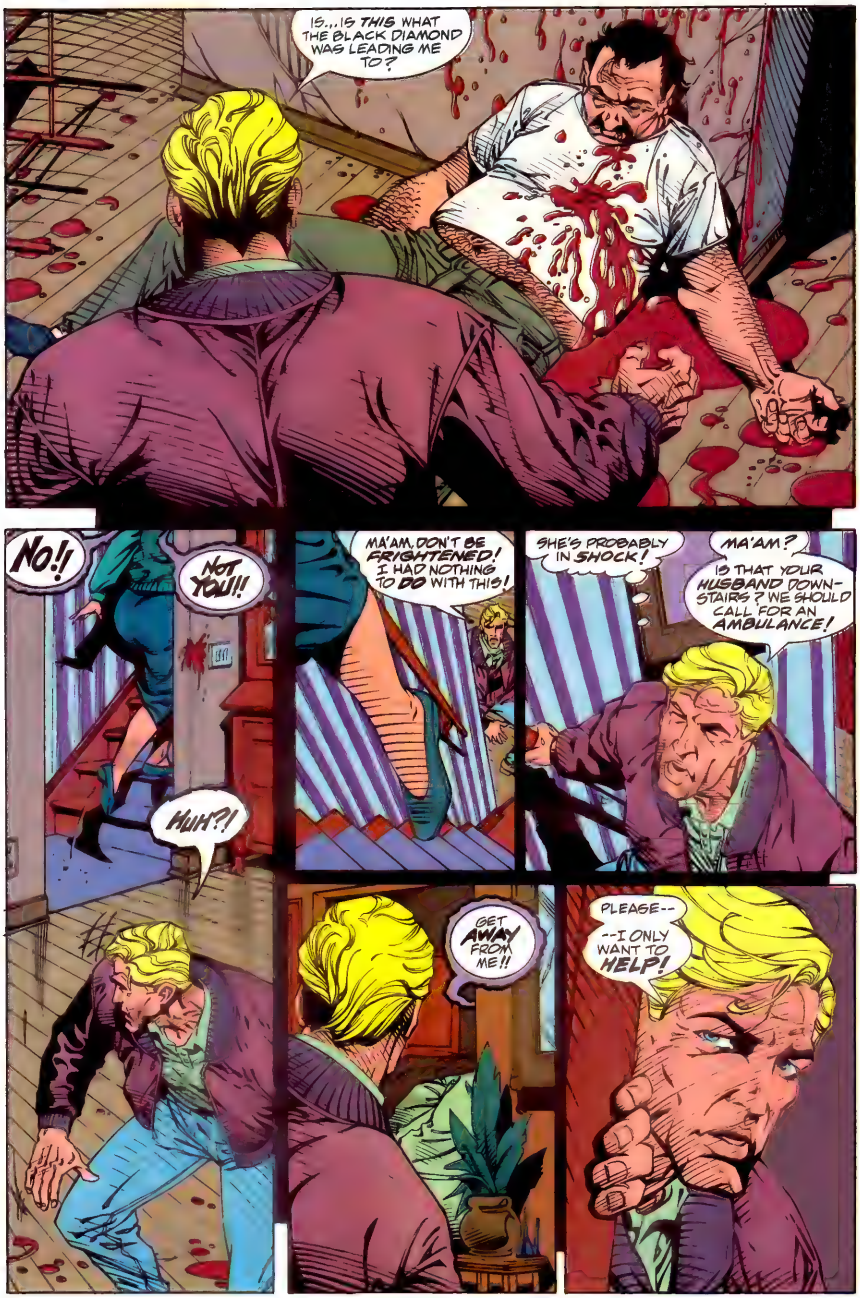
DAMN! FLASHLIGHT BULB'S BURNED OUT JUST WHEN I NEED IT!
CLICK CLICK

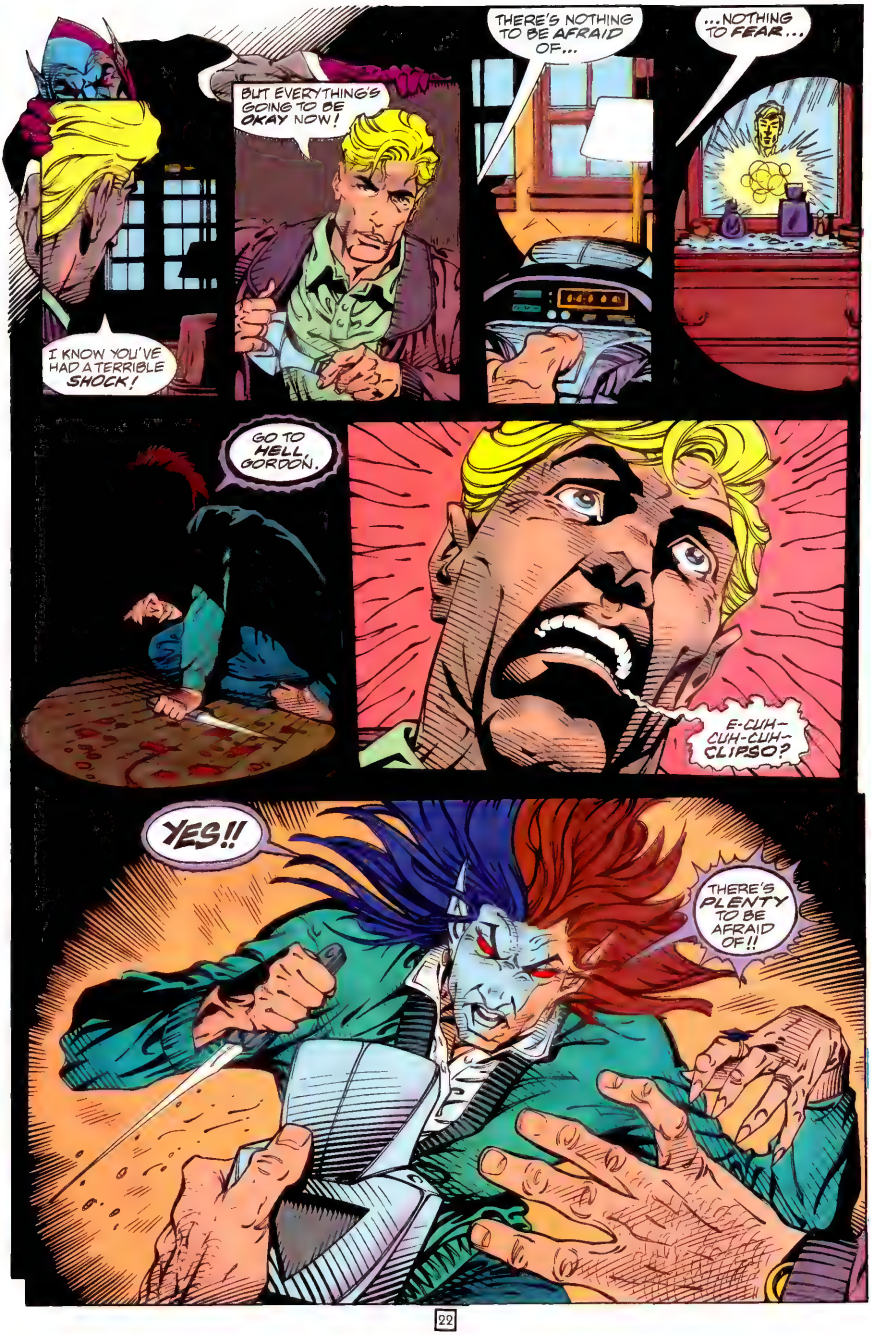
WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I INVENTED THIS LITTLE GIZMO!


SOMETHING'S TUGGING ON THAT DIAMOND, AND IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND OUT WHAT!


READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!

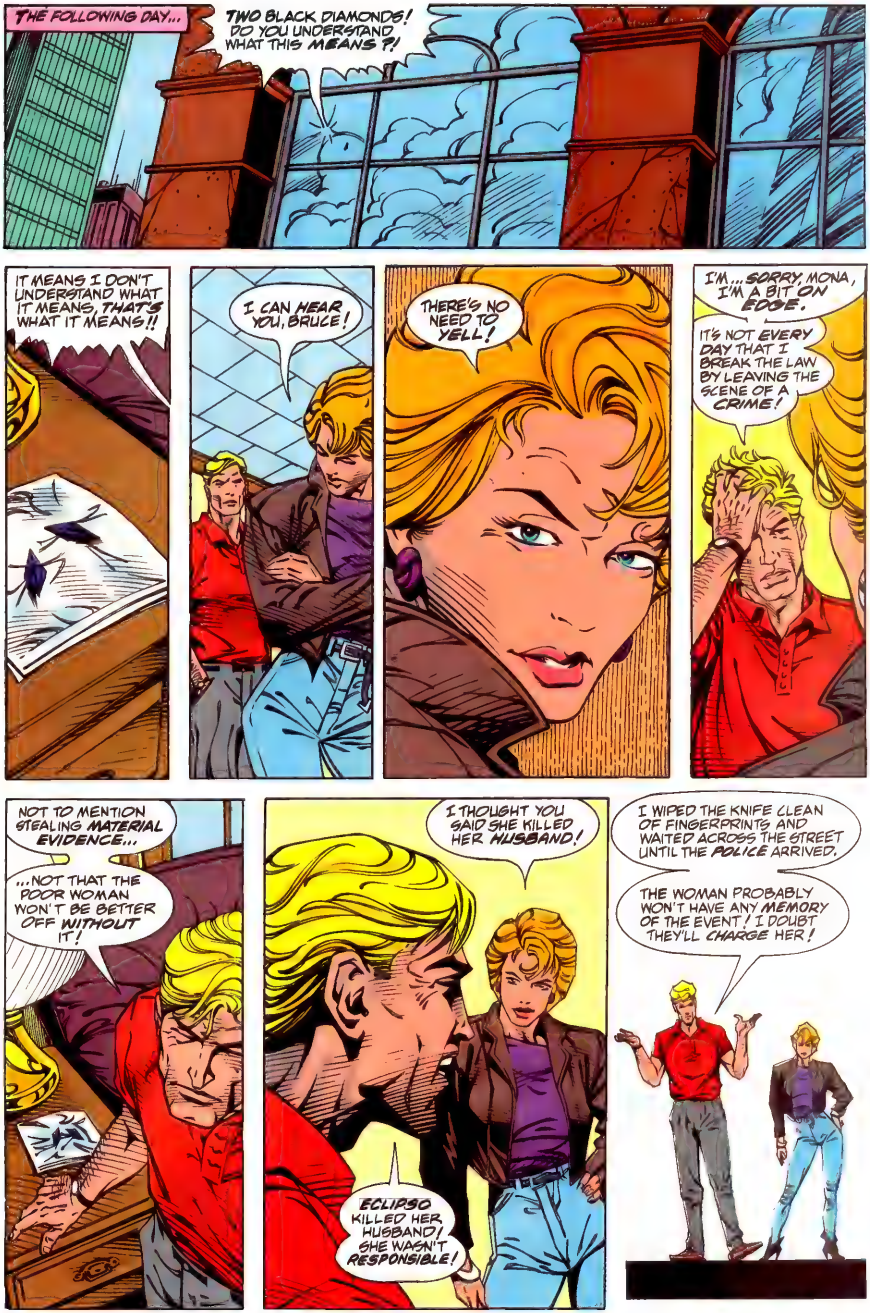
THREE HOURS LATER...
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT!
WONDER WHAT THEY'LL GIVE ME FOR A DIAMOND IN A PETRI DISH?
PAWN
YOU'RE WHISTLING PAST THE GRAVE-YARD, BRUCIE.
JUST GO IN AND GET IT OVER WITH!
HELLO?
IS ANYBODY HERE?
HELLO...?
SQUISH!
OH!
OH, GOD!

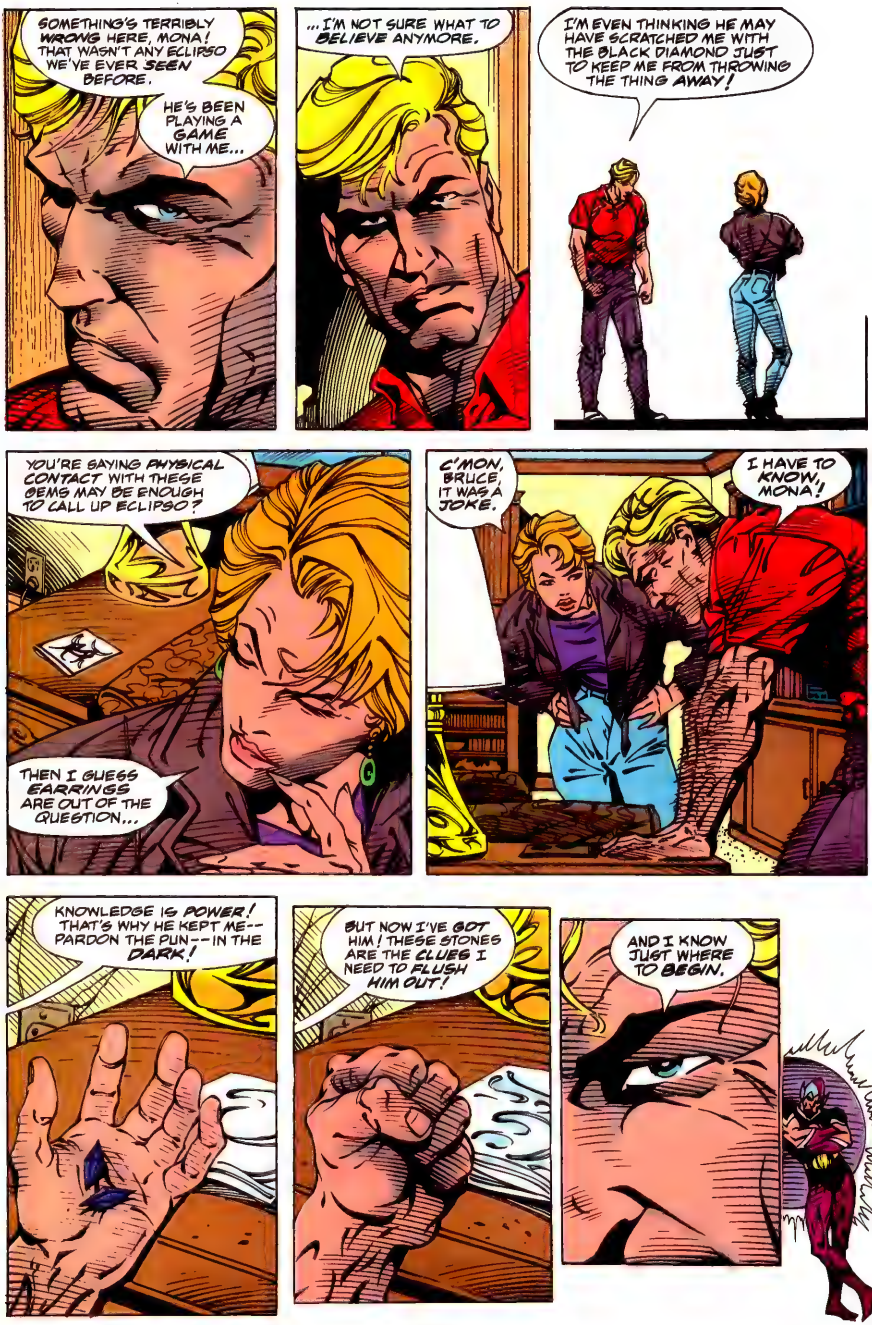

IS...IS THIS WHAT THE BLACK DIAMOND WAS LEADING ME TO?
NO!!
NOT YOU!!
HUH?!
MA'AM, DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
SHE'S PROBABLY IN SHOCK!
MA'AM?
IS THAT YOUR HUSBAND DOWNSTAIRS? WE SHOULD CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
PLEASE--
--I ONLY WANT TO HELP!


I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A TERRIBLE SHOCK!
BUT EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW!
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
...NOTHING TO FEAR...
GO TO HELL, GORDON.
E-CUH-CUH-CUH-CLIPSO?
YES!!
THERE'S PLENTY TO BE AFRAID OF!!

UHH!!
OHHHHH--
G-G-GET OFF ME!!
UH! UH! UH! UHH!
pant pant pant
WH-WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?

SHE WAS ECLIPSO! I KNOW SHE WAS--
BUT... ANGRIER THAN I'VE EVER SEEN HIM! THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE--LIKE AN ANIMAL!
H-HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME!
IF I HADN'T SHONE THE FLASHLIGHT ON HIM--OH, I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT!
HOW COULD THIS WOMAN HAVE TURNED INTO ECLIPSO? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
ECLIPSO IS MY EVIL HALF!
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS SCRATCHED BY THE--
--THE--
OH, MY GOD!
ANOTHER BLACK DIAMOND!


THE FOLLOWING DAY...
TWO BLACK DIAMONDS! DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS?!
IT MEANS I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS, THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS!!
I CAN HEAR YOU, BRUCE!
THERE'S NO NEED TO YELL!
I'M... SORRY, MONA, I'M A BIT ON EDGE.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT I BREAK THE LAW BY LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRIME!
NOT TO MENTION STEALING MATERIAL EVIDENCE...
...NOT THAT THE POOR WOMAN WON'T BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT IT!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID SHE KILLED HER HUSBAND!
ECLIPSO KILLED HER HUSBAND! SHE WASN'T RESPONSIBLE!
I WIPED THE KNIFE CLEAN OF FINGERPRINTS AND WAITED ACROSS THE STREET UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVED.
THE WOMAN PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF THE EVENT! I DOUBT THEY'LL CHARGE HER!


SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG HERE, MONA! THAT WASN'T ANY ECLIPSO WE'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.
HE'S BEEN PLAYING A GAME WITH ME...
...I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.
I'M EVEN THINKING HE MAY HAVE SCRATCHED ME WITH THE BLACK DIAMOND JUST TO KEEP ME FROM THROWING THE THING AWAY!
YOU'RE SAYING PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THESE GEMS MAY BE ENOUGH TO CALL UP ECLIPSO?
THEN I GUESS EARRINGS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION...
C'MON, BRUCE, IT WAS A JOKE.
I HAVE TO KNOW, MONA!
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER! THAT'S WHY HE KEPT ME-- PARDON THE PUN--IN THE DARK!
BUT NOW I'VE GOT HIM! THESE STONES ARE THE CLUES I NEED TO FLUSH HIM OUT!
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO BEGIN.

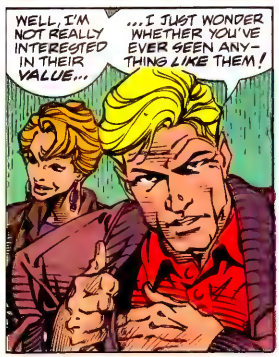
MEANWHILE...
ECLIPSO!
STRANGER...
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING!
I AM OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE, BUT I HAVE SENT THIS ASTRAL IMAGE TO WARN YOU THAT--
TO... WARN ME ?? IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID ??
I AM AWARE OF YOUR EVERY MOVE! ONCE MY CURRENT TASK IS COMPLETED, I'LL--
--YOU'LL DIE! LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WHO CROSSES MY PATH!!
COME BACK AGAIN WHEN YOU HAVE MORE TIME!!

FORTY-SEVENTH STREET, BETWEEN FIFTH AND SIXTH AVENUES...
JEWELS
GEMS
DIAMONDS
GEMS
THE DIAMOND AND JEWELRY EXCHANGE

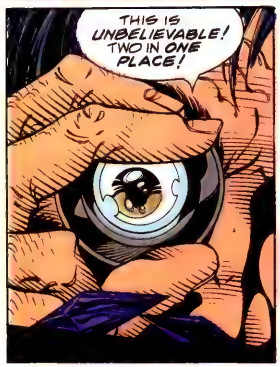
FREE APPRAISALS
HOURS: MON-FRI 9-6

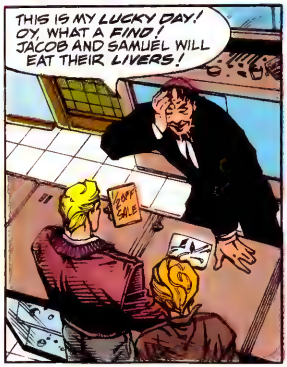
UHH...THE SIGN IN YOUR WINDOW SAYS...

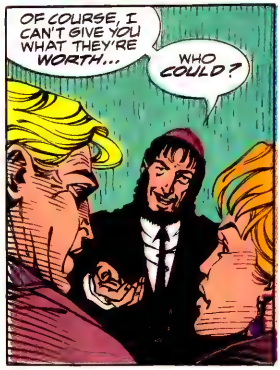
FREE APPRAISALS!
SO LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!


WELL, I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN THEIR VALUE...
...I JUST WONDER WHETHER YOU'VE EVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE THEM!

-GASP-
I MUST CALL MY BROTHERS! THEY OWN STORES NEARBY!


THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! TWO IN ONE PLACE!


THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY! OY, WHAT A FIND! JACOB AND SAMUEL WILL EAT THEIR LIVERS!


OF COURSE, I CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT THEY'RE WORTH...
WHO COULD?

SOLLY, WHAT IS IT?
WE CAME AS FAST AS WE COULD!
WELCOME! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU, MY BROTHERS!
-GASP-
-GASP-
WE WILL BE THE TALK OF THE EXCHANGE!
TWO OF THEM!
DON'T FORGET WHO FOUND THE GEMS!
I HAVE FINDER'S RIGHTS!
WAIT A MINUTE... I JUST WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THESE DIAMONDS!
SO WE'LL TELL YOU!
THEY ARE PART OF THE FABLED "HEART OF DARKNESS"...
...A BLACK DIAMOND SO LARGE AND PERFECT IT WAS CONSIDERED VIRTUALLY PRICELESS!
IT WAS SAID TO BE THE SOURCE OF INCREDIBLE EVIL!
SOME KIND OF DARK GOD TRAPPED INSIDE IT!
WHO WAS SET FREE WHEN THE GEM WAS STOLEN!
AND THE ROBBER CUT THE STONE INTO A THOUSAND PIECES--
--EACH OF WHICH CONTAINS A CHUNK OF THE "DARK GOD"--
--WHO COMES BACK TO LIFE WHENEVER THE OWNER OF A BLACK DIAMOND BECOMES ANGRY!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
ND SOLD
CATCH HIM! HE'S FAINTING!
FREE APPRAISALS

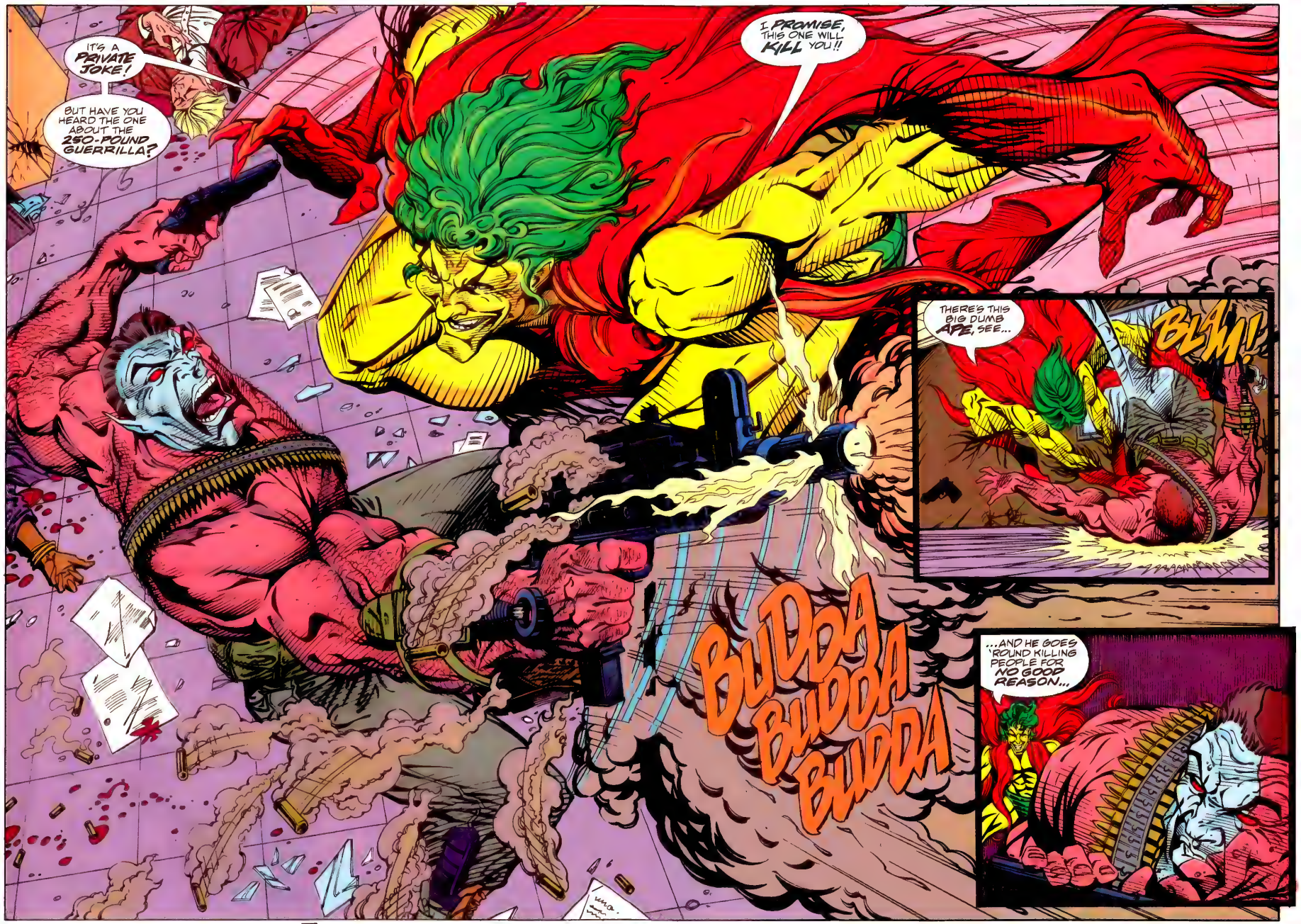
ONE WEEK LATER...
THE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, OFFICES OF TV STATION WHAM...

AIIEEEE!!!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
EXIT
MOOSE

OKAY, YOU SCREWHEADS! I'M GONNA ASK JUST ONE MORE TIME!
OHHHHH OHHHHH...

HE'S ALWAYS SHOWING UP AROUND HERE, SO ONE OF YOU MUST KNOW--
--WHERE'S THE CREEPER?

WHERE?
WHERE?
WHERE?
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
SKEEW
DAMN!
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR CALLING MY SHOW "JACK RYDER'S HOT SEAT"!
CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER--HAVE TO CHANGE INTO THE CREEPER MANUALLY!
HEE HEE HEE HA HA HA HA HEE HA HA
WHAT THE HELL IS SO FUNNY?


IT'S A PRIVATE JOKE!
BUT HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE 250-POUND GUERRILLA?
I PROMISE, THIS ONE WILL KILL YOU!!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
THERE'S THIS BIG DUMB APE, SEE...
BLAM!
...AND HE GOES 'ROUND KILLING PEOPLE FOR NO GOOD REASON...

ARE YOU WITH ME, SO FAR?
CLICK!
BLAM BLAM!
I LOVE AN ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE!
SO THEN THIS BANANA-EATER DECIDES TO TAKE ON SOMEONE WHO CAN FIGHT BACK!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
PING!
PING!
PING!
PING!
THE END!
ULP!
GET IT?!

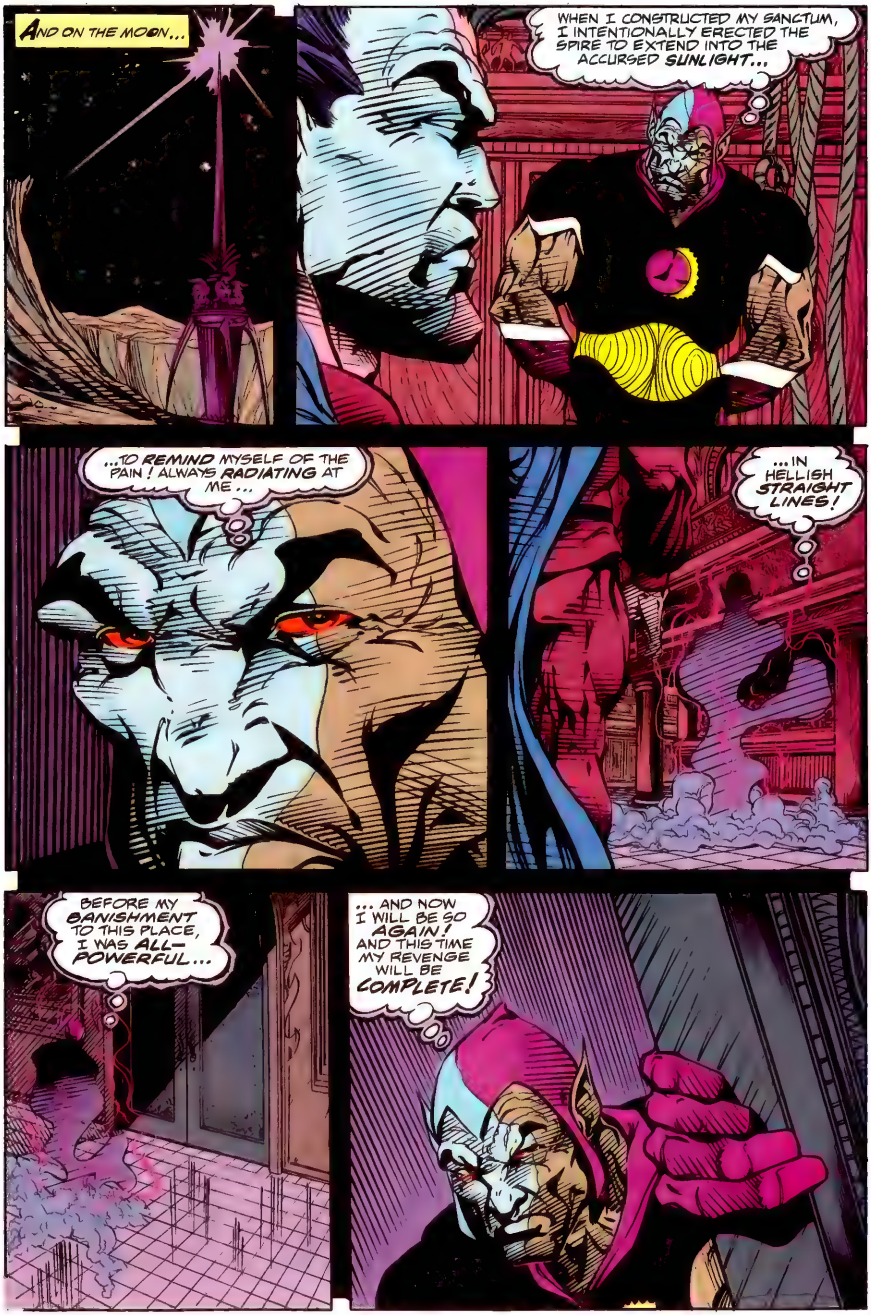
POW!
WOW!
I GUESS IT'S TRUE--HE WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHS BEST!
I'M NOT LAUGHING!
AND YOU WON'T BE EITHER...
...WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!

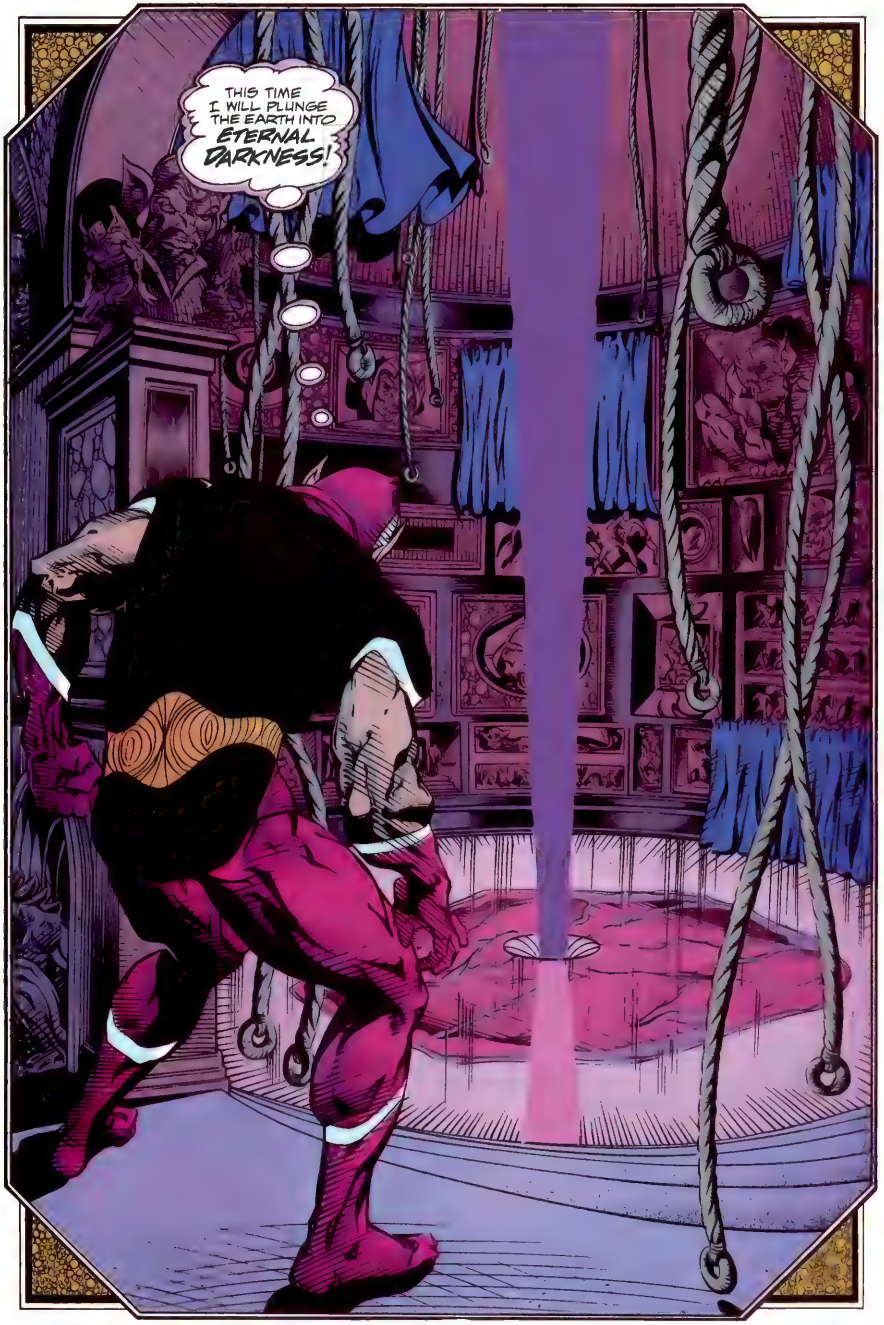
KOOM!
OKAY, SO YOU DON'T LIKE JOKES -- HOW ABOUT A RIDDLE??
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ABOUT TO BE RIDDLED, HAIRBALL!
FA-HOW!
HA! "RIDDLED"! THAT'S A GOOD ONE, ALL RIGHT!
STAIRS
I'M IN DEEP DOO-DOO -- NOW HE'S STEALING MY JOKES!

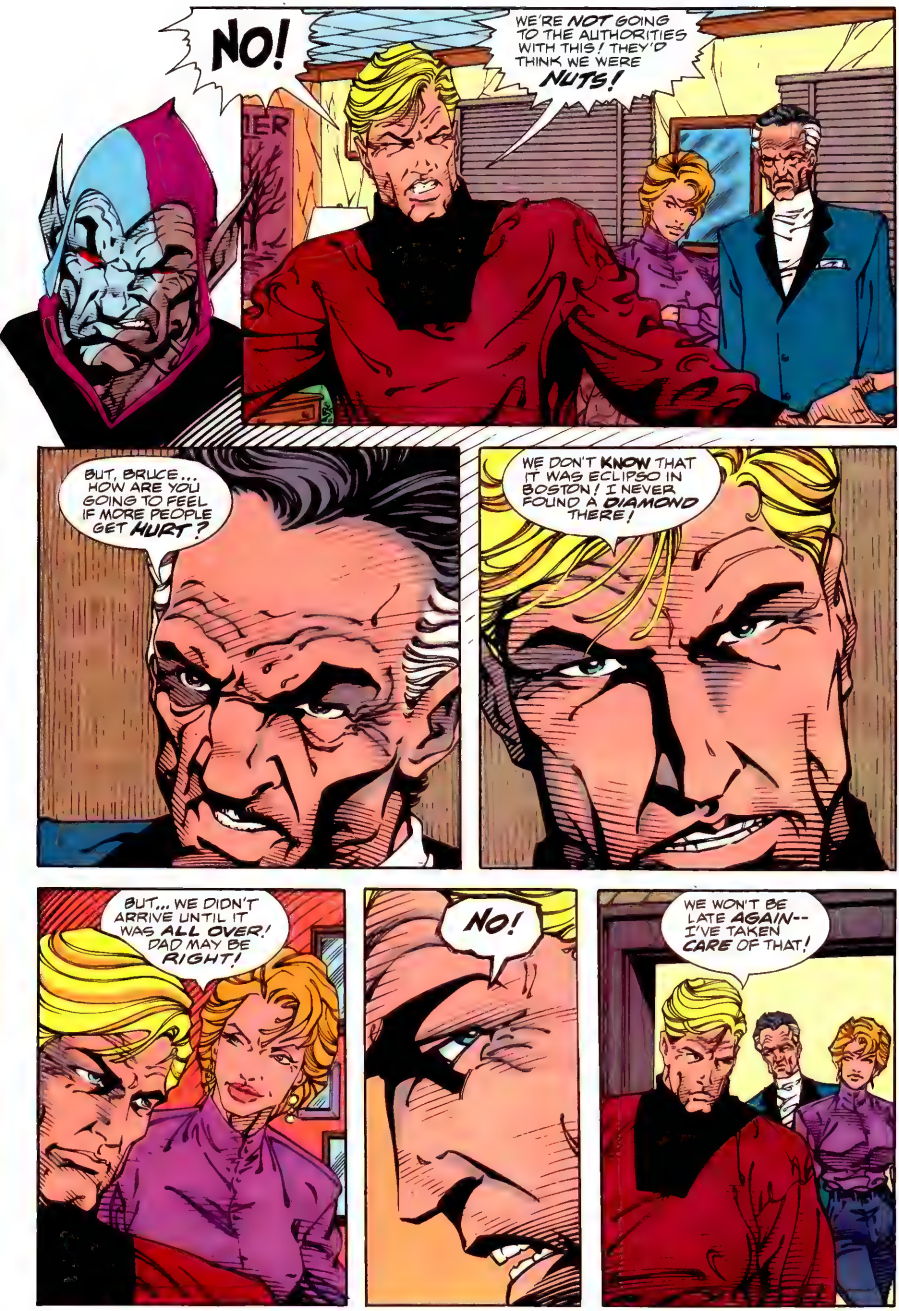
GOTTA GET OUT INTO THE OPEN-- WHERE I'LL HAVE ROOM TO DODGE THOSE BLASTS!
CRUMB
STARS
THERE! NOW I STAND A FIGHTING CHANCE!
WISH I COULD GET THAT GEM AWAY FROM HIM! WITHOUT IT HE'S JUST AN ORDINARY--
:Ahem:
--GUY?
AWW, NO! YOU CAN FLY, TOO!
LIFE'S SO UNFAIR!
DON'T YOU WISH WE COULD JUST DUKE IT OUT, MAN TO MAN?

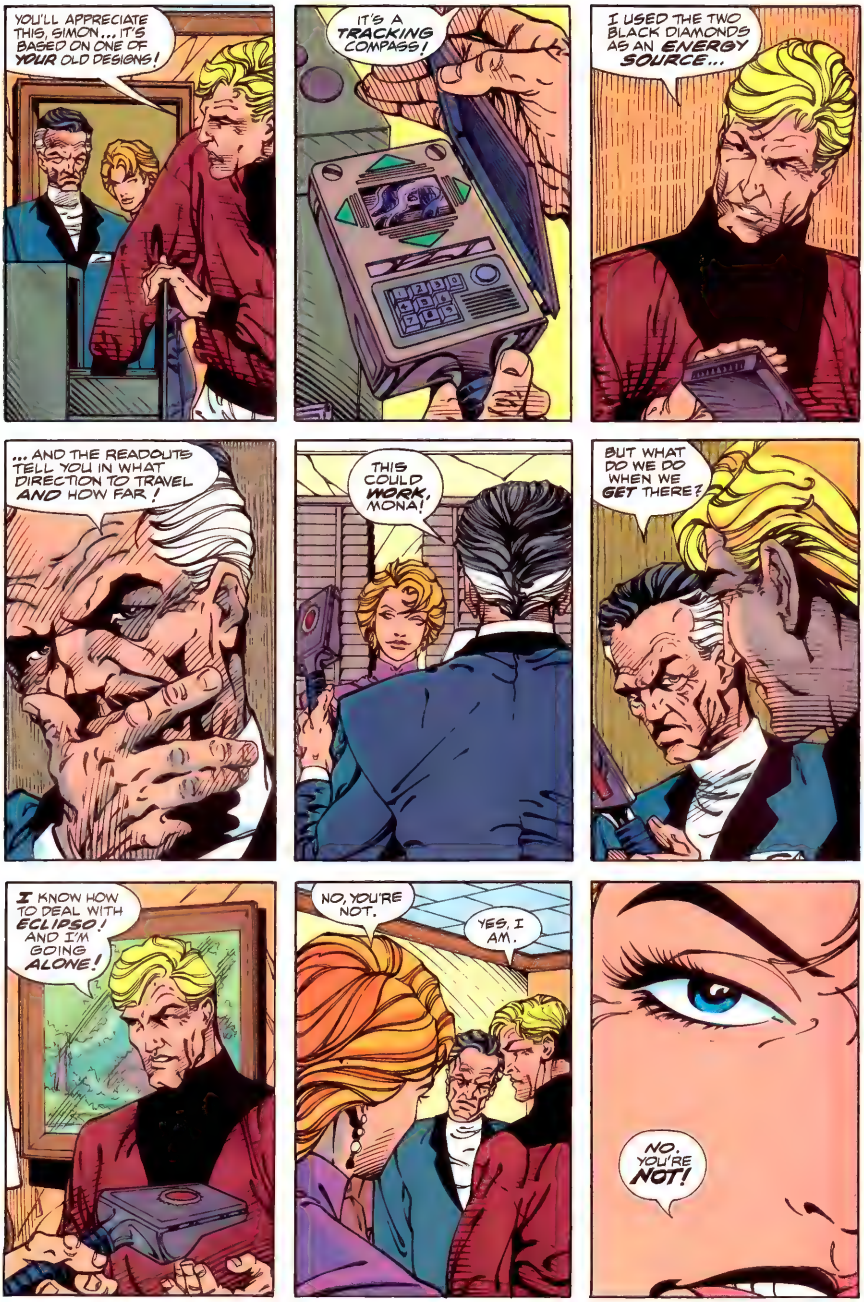
WELL... HEY! WHY CAN'T WE? IF YOU'LL JUST PUT DOWN THAT--
-- BLACK DIAMOND?
IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY?
SURE. WHY NOT.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THUD
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PICK IT UP!
A HERO WOULDN'T DO THAT-- IT WOULDN'T BE SPORTING!
SPORTING?
IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL THAT MASSACRE DOWNSTAIRS? YOU SON OF A--
AAAAAAAA
WHAM

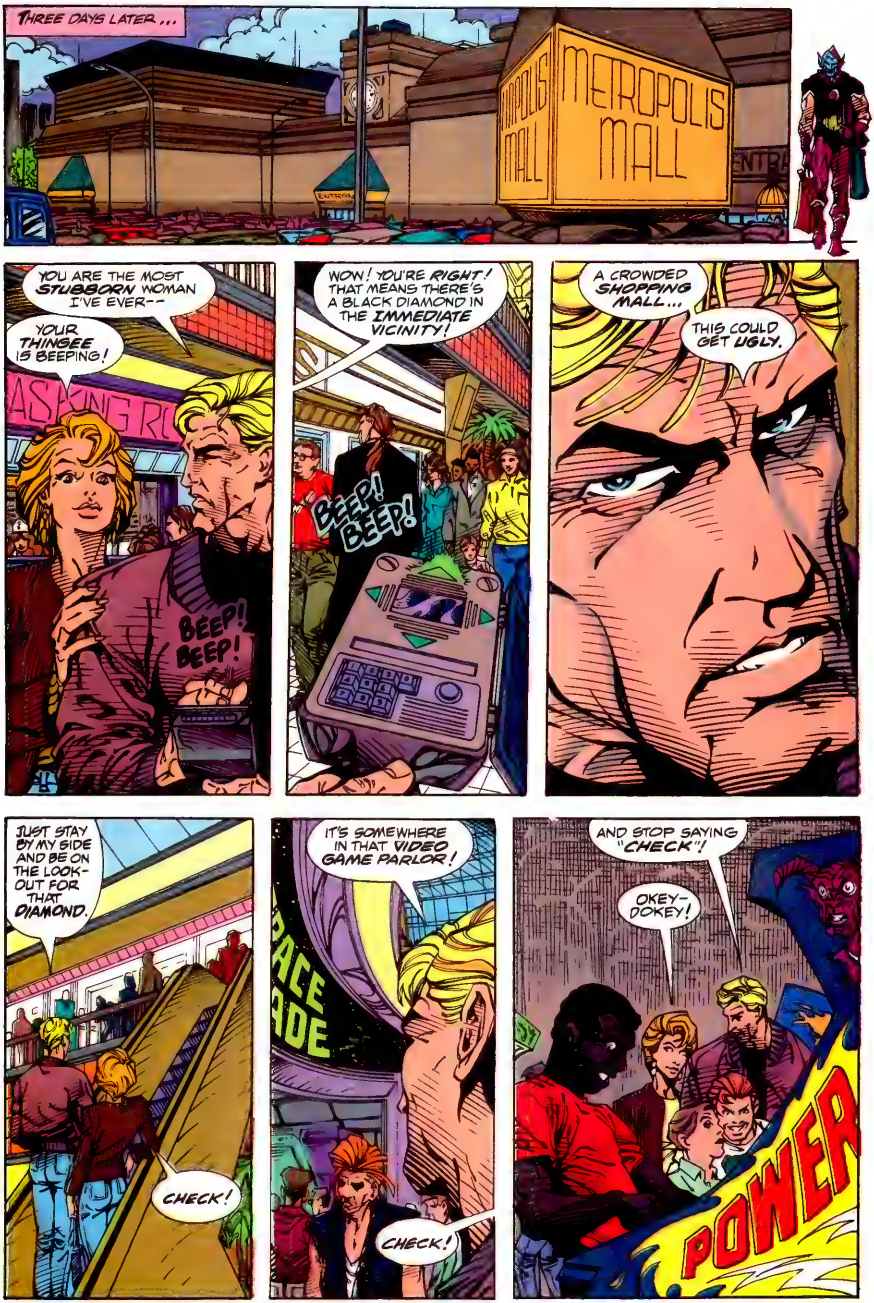
THIS WAS ALMOST TOO EASY!
THE CREEPER IS A LONER AND CONSIDERED DERANGED, THEREFORE HE WAS A PERFECT TEST CASE! IF HE HAD ELUDED MY GRASP, WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED HIS STORY?
AS IT IS, I'VE RELEASED MY HOLD ON THAT BLIFFOONISH SURVIVALIST, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE ONE REMAINING EYEWITNESS TO THIS ENTIRE INCIDENT!
YES, IT WENT PERFECTLY! I'M NOW READY TO BEGIN TAKING OTHER SUPER-POWERED BEINGS!
BETTER START WITH SUPERMAN... IF I'M FORCED INTO THE OPEN, HE'LL BE THE HARDEST TO DEAL WITH!
MEANWHILE, I'LL HIDE THIS BODY IN THE DARKNESS UNTIL I CAN FIND A WAY TO TRANSPORT IT TO THE MOON!

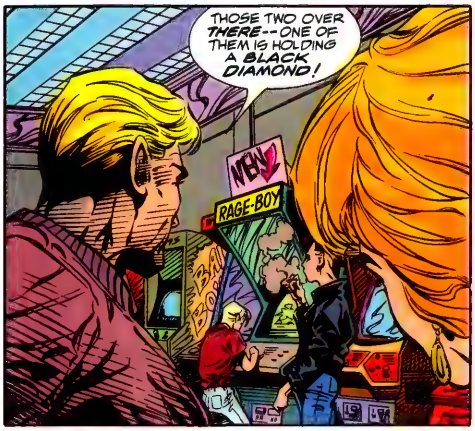

AND ON THE MOON...
WHEN I CONSTRUCTED MY SANCTUM, I INTENTIONALLY ERECTED THE SPIRE TO EXTEND INTO THE ACCURSED SUNLIGHT...
...TO REMIND MYSELF OF THE PAIN! ALWAYS RADIATING AT ME...
...IN HELLISH STRAIGHT LINES!
BEFORE MY BANISHMENT TO THIS PLACE, I WAS ALL-POWERFUL...
... AND NOW I WILL BE SO AGAIN! AND THIS TIME MY REVENGE WILL BE COMPLETE!


THIS TIME I WILL PLUNGE THE EARTH INTO ETERNAL DARKNESS!


NO!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE AUTHORITIES WITH THIS! THEY'D THINK WE WERE NUTS!
BUT, BRUCE... HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FEEL IF MORE PEOPLE GET HURT?
WE DON'T KNOW THAT IT WAS ECLIPSO IN BOSTON! I NEVER FOUND A DIAMOND THERE!
BUT... WE DIDN'T ARRIVE UNTIL IT WAS ALL OVER! DAD MAY BE RIGHT!
NO!
WE WON'T BE LATE AGAIN-- I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT!

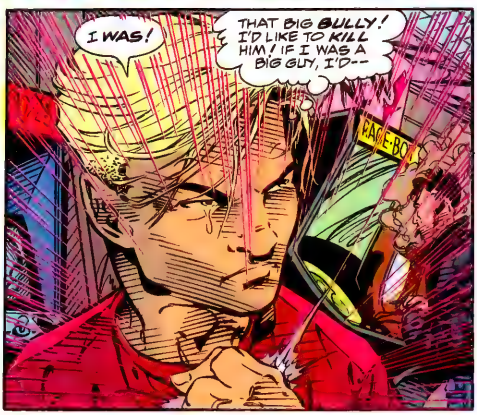

YOU'LL APPRECIATE THIS, SIMON... IT'S BASED ON ONE OF YOUR OLD DESIGNS!
IT'S A TRACKING COMPASS!
I USED THE TWO BLACK DIAMONDS AS AN ENERGY SOURCE...
...AND THE READOUTS TELL YOU IN WHAT DIRECTION TO TRAVEL AND HOW FAR!
THIS COULD WORK, MONA!
BUT WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE GET THERE?
I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH ECLIPSO! AND I'M GOING ALONE!
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
YES, I AM.
NO. YOU'RE NOT!


THREE DAYS LATER...
METROPOLIS MALL
YOU ARE THE MOST STUBBORN WOMAN I'VE EVER--
YOUR THINGEE IS BEEPING!
BEEP! BEEP!
WOW! YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT MEANS THERE'S A BLACK DIAMOND IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY!
BEEP! BEEP!
A CROWDED SHOPPING MALL...
THIS COULD GET UGLY.
JUST STAY BY MY SIDE AND BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR THAT DIAMOND.
CHECK!
IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THAT VIDEO GAME PARLOR!
CHECK!
AND STOP SAYING "CHECK"!
OKEY-DOKEY!
POWER


THOSE TWO OVER THERE--ONE OF THEM IS HOLDING A BLACK DIAMOND!
NEW
RAGE-BOY

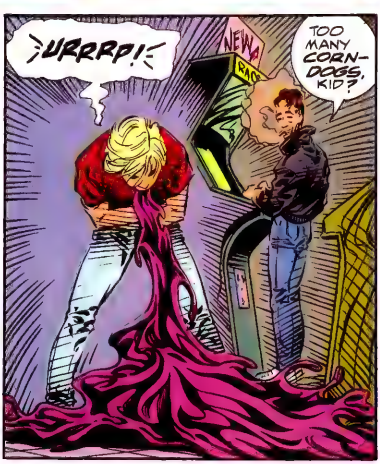
MY TURN, KID.
HEY! I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME!
RAGE-BOY

WITH MY LUCKY STONE, I WAS GOING TO BEAT MY HIGH SCORE!
SURE YOU WERE, KID.


I WAS!
THAT BIG BULLY! I'D LIKE TO KILL HIM! IF I WAS A BIG GUY, I'D--
RAGE-BOY

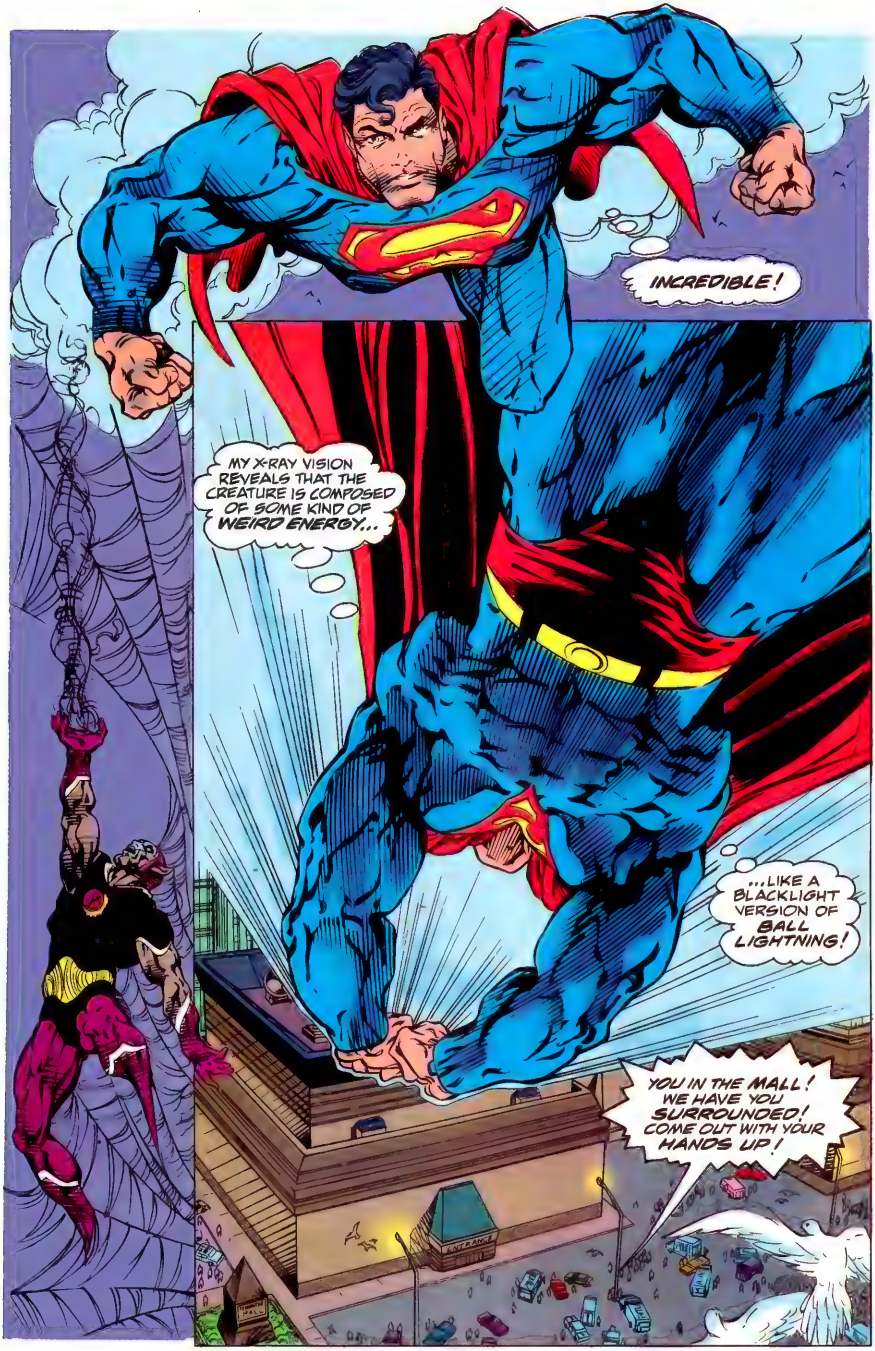
MONA, THAT'S IT!

ECLIPSO IS SUMMONED BY FEELINGS OF RAGE AND REVENGE!


¡URRRP!
NEW
RAGE
TOO MANY CORN-DOGS, KID?

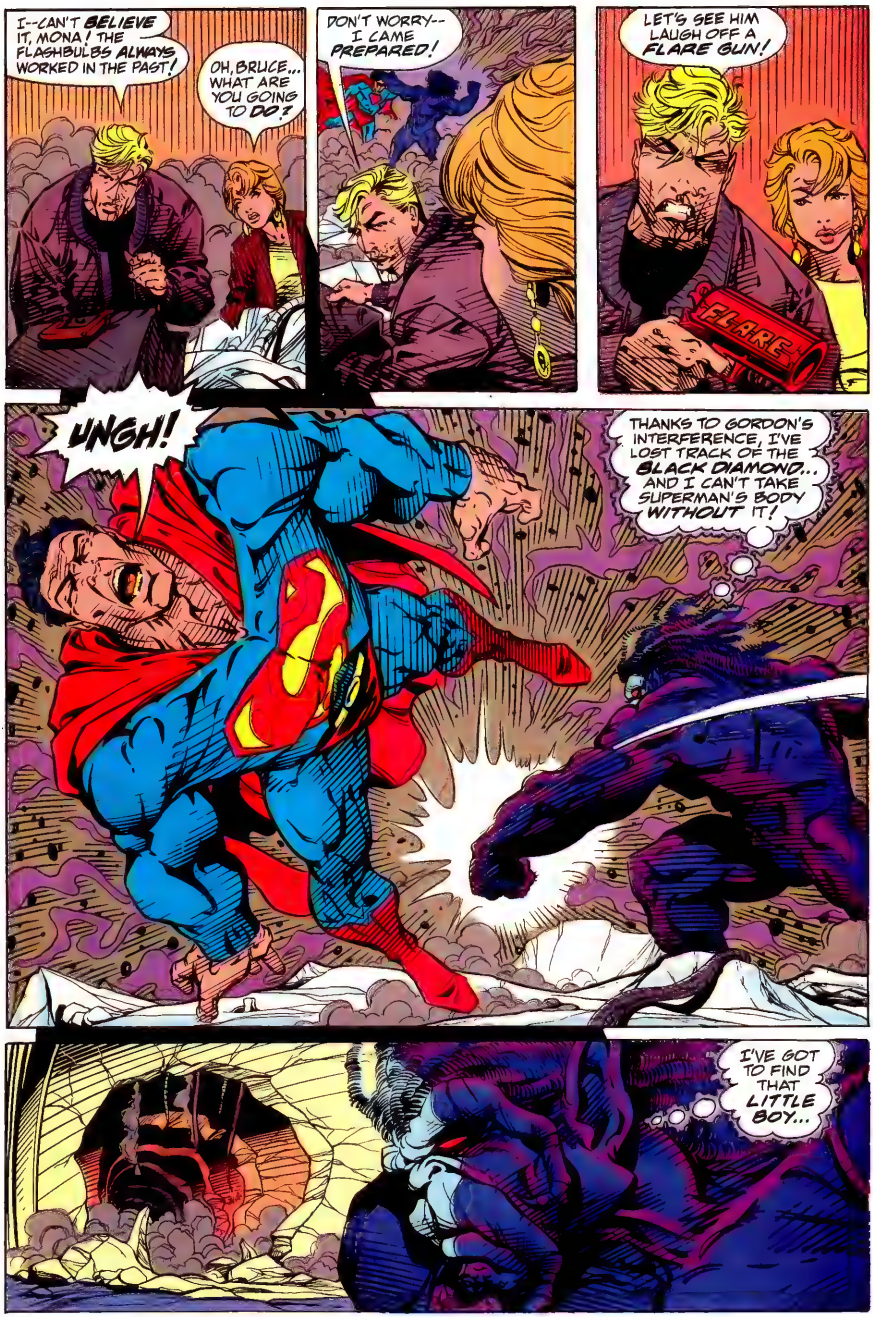
YOU JUST INTERRUPTED A PERFECT GAME, MISTER!
AR
ALIEN
RAGE-BOY
BIG MISTAKE.
STAND BACK, EVERYONE! LEAVE THIS TO ME!
DROP THAT MAN, ECLIPSO, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO USE THIS!
GORDON?
YOU ASKED FOR IT!

DID YOU REALLY THINK I COULD BE EXORCISED BY A--
--FLASHBULB?!
KRASHH!
WHILE ACROSS TOWN, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY PLANET...
"BEFORE THE MASSACRE, THE SURVIVALIST HAD SHOWN NO EVIDENCE OF A VIOLENT NATURE..."
...NEW PARAGRAPH...
CLARK, YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!
HUH?
SOME KIND OF VIDEO GAME MONSTER IS TEARING UP THE METROPOLIS MALL!

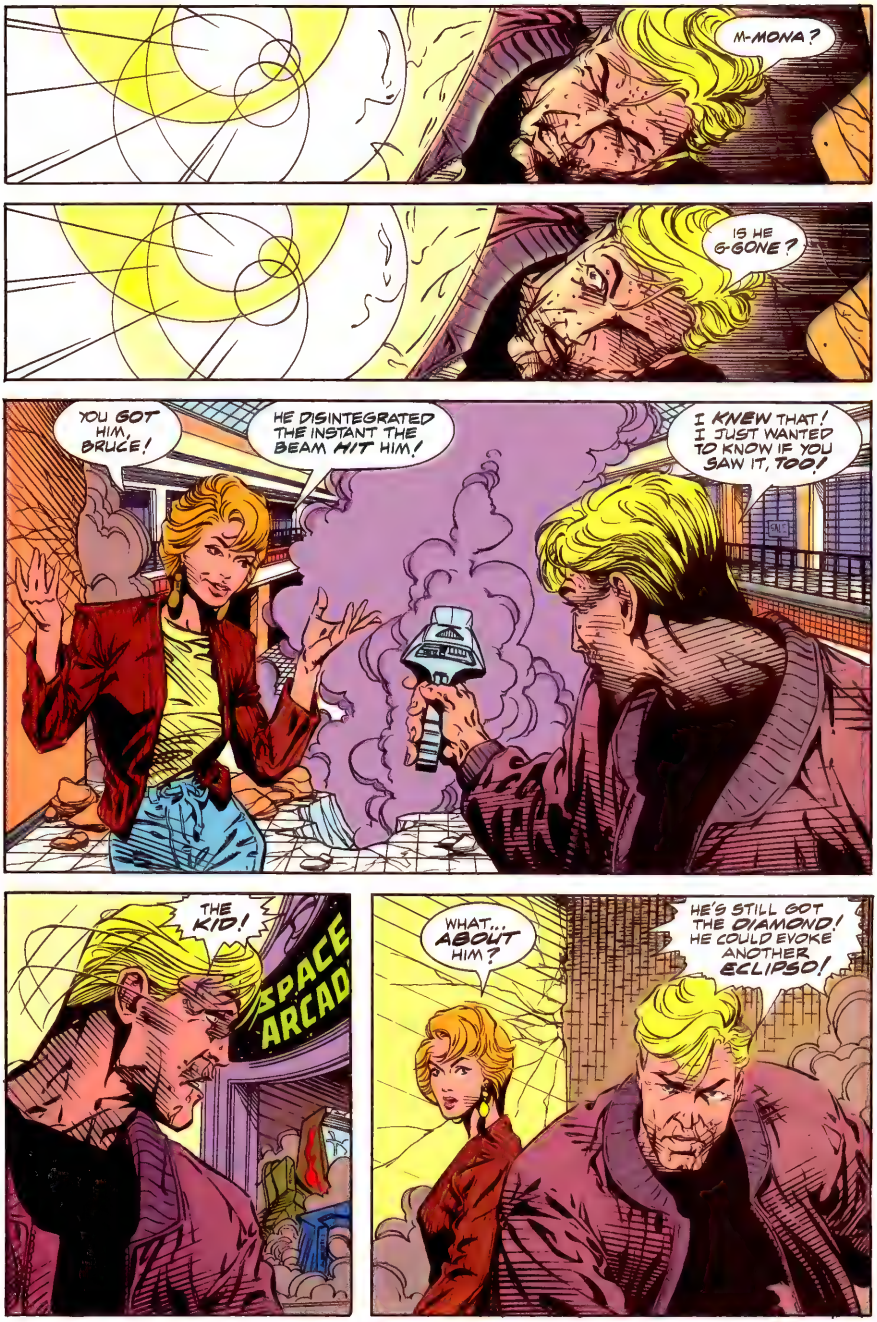

INCREDIBLE!
MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS THAT THE CREATURE IS COMPOSED OF SOME KIND OF WEIRD ENERGY...
...LIKE A BLACKLIGHT VERSION OF BALL LIGHTNING!
YOU IN THE MALL! WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
ENTRANCE

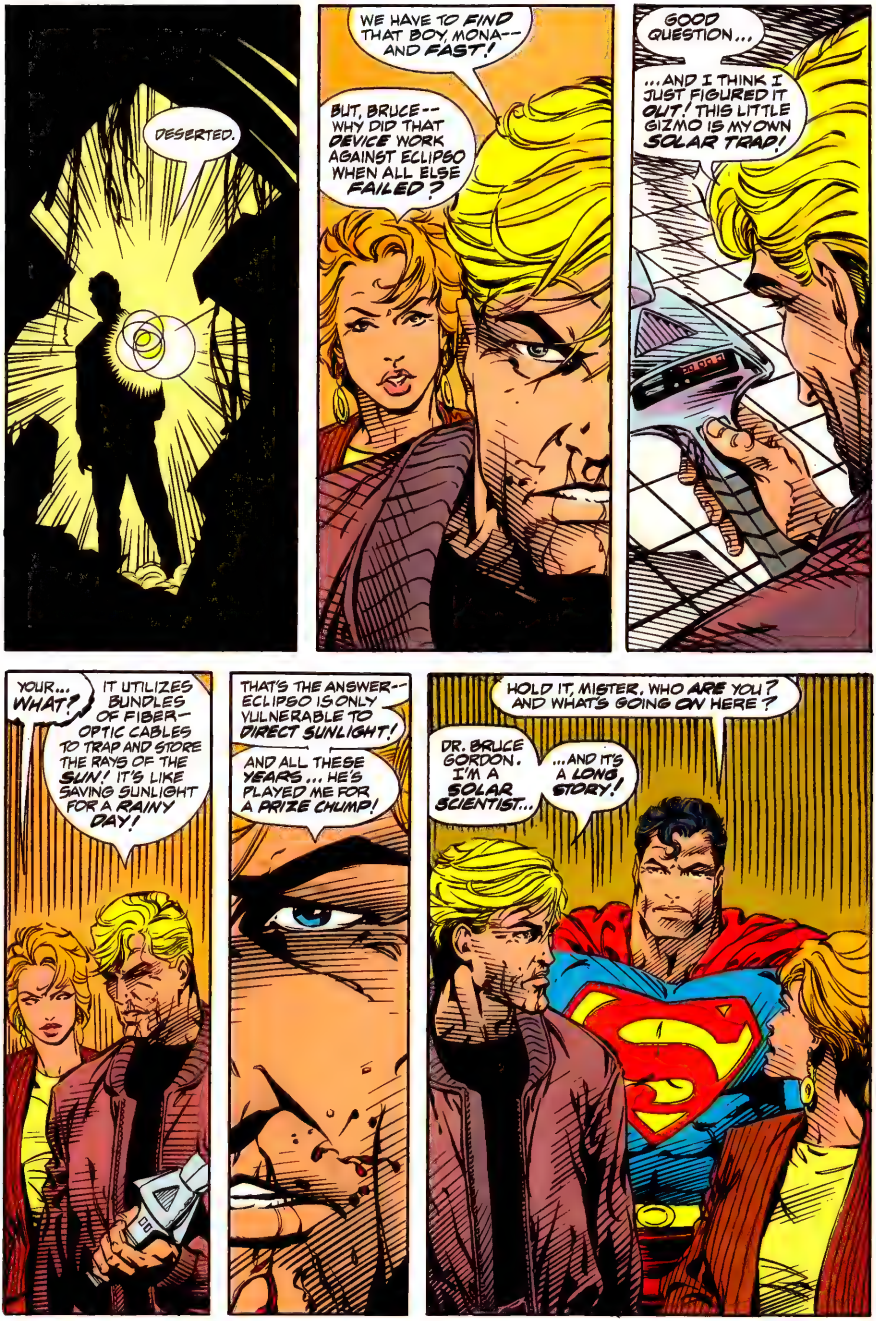
HEY, IT'S SUPERMAN!
POLICE
WATCH OUT-- THAT THING IS BAD!
GO GET HIM, BIG GUY!
GET AWAY FROM THOSE PEOPLE!
WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE!
SUCH ORIGINALITY OF EXPRESSION!
BUT I'LL PLAY ALONG!
WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN HERE AND MAKE ME??
HA HA HA!

GLAD TO OBLIGE! JUST REMEMBER-- YOU ASKED FOR THIS!
ARRGHH!
KRASH!
MUST BE CAREFUL-- TOO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT--
KRAK
BETTER FINISH THIS THING OFF FAST!
OOF!
WAKK
FOOL! STRENGTH SUCH AS YOURS IS WASTED IF YOU INSIST ON PULLING YOUR PUNCHES!


I--CAN'T BELIEVE IT, MONA! THE FLASHBULBS ALWAYS WORKED IN THE PAST!
OH, BRUCE... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
DON'T WORRY-- I CAME PREPARED!
LET'S SEE HIM LAUGH OFF A FLARE GUN!
FLARE
UNGH!
THANKS TO GORDON'S INTERFERENCE, I'VE LOST TRACK OF THE BLACK DIAMOND... AND I CAN'T TAKE SUPERMAN'S BODY WITHOUT IT!
I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT LITTLE BOY...

BANG
FFF-SHHHH
WHAT?!
AH... GORDON,
YOU KNOW, I'M ACTUALLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN! YOU HAVE BLACK DIAMONDS, DON'T YOU, GORDON? YOU USED THEM TO TRACK ME HERE--
--DIDN'T YOU?!
I KNOW THIS WILL WORK--
IT'S G-GOT TO WORK...
GET AWAY FROM ME!
I'VE G-GOT THE DEVICE I USED ON YOU IN THE PAWN SHOP!


M-MONA?
IS HE G-GONE?
YOU GOT HIM, BRUCE!
HE DISINTEGRATED THE INSTANT THE BEAM HIT HIM!
I KNEW THAT! I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU SAW IT, TOO!
THE KID!
SPACE ARCAD
WHAT... ABOUT HIM?
HE'S STILL GOT THE DIAMOND! HE COULD EVOKE ANOTHER ECLIPSO!


DESERTED.
WE HAVE TO FIND THAT BOY, MONA-- AND FAST!
BUT, BRUCE-- WHY DID THAT DEVICE WORK AGAINST ECLIPSO WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED?
GOOD QUESTION...
...AND I THINK I JUST FIGURED IT OUT! THIS LITTLE GIZMO IS MY OWN SOLAR TRAP!
YOUR... WHAT?
IT UTILIZES BUNDLES OF FIBER-OPTIC CABLES TO TRAP AND STORE THE RAYS OF THE SUN! IT'S LIKE SAVING SUNLIGHT FOR A RAINY DAY!
THAT'S THE ANSWER-- ECLIPSO IS ONLY VULNERABLE TO DIRECT SUNLIGHT!
AND ALL THESE YEARS... HE'S PLAYED ME FOR A PRIZE CHUMP!
HOLD IT, MISTER. WHO ARE YOU? AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DR. BRUCE GORDON. I'M A SOLAR SCIENTIST...
...AND IT'S A LONG STORY!

AND ON THE MOON...
GORDON!
SO MANY TIMES I'VE WANTED TO--
--BUT NO!
SOLAR POWER IS MY TRUE ENEMY!
BY KEEPING EARTH'S PREEMINENT SOLAR SCIENTIST CONSTANTLY OFF-BALANCE--
--I'VE MANAGED TO STALL BY DECADES THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY!
BUT NOW HE KNOWS TOO MUCH!
HE'S BECOMING DANGEROUS TO ME! I'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
AND IF SUPERMAN TRIES TO GET IN MY WAY--

TO BE CONTINUED in SUPERMAN THE MAN OF STEEL ANNUAL #1!

ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

AND IN OTHER DC ANNUALS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!

THINK OF METROPOLIS AND IMAGES OF GLEAMING SKYSCRAPERS SPRING TO MIND...

DAILY PLA

CLEAN STREETS... FRIENDLY FACES...

A HERO WHO EMBODIES THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST QUALITIES OF A CIVILIZED SOCIETY...

BUT DEEP WITHIN THOSE CONCRETE CANYONS LURKS A DIFFERENT METROPOLIS...

--A MURKY MAZE OF BLIND ALLEYS AND DEAD ENDS.

ALL CITIES HAVE THEIR DARK SIDES, AND ALL PEOPLE DO AS WELL...

...WITH ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION

TAP TAP TAP

"BEFORE THE MASSACRE, THE SURVIVALIST HAD SHOWN NO EVIDENCE OF A VIOLENT NATURE..."

...NEW PARAGRAPH...

FORTY-TWO PEOPLE DEAD

WHAT COULD POSSESS A PERSON TO DO SUCH A THING?

CLARK, YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!

HUH?

SOME KIND OF VIDEOGAME MONSTER IS TEARING UP THE METROPOLIS MALL!

PRINTED IN CANADA

YOU IN THE MALL! WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

INCREDIBLE! MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS THAT THE CREATURE IS COMPOSED OF SOME KIND OF WEIRD ENERGY...

LIKE A BLACKLIGHT VERSION OF BALL LIGHTNING!

GET AWAY FROM THOSE PEOPLE!

WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN HERE AND MAKE ME?!

GLAD TO OBLIGE!

JUST REMEMBER-- YOU ASKED FOR THIS!

ARRGHH!

GET READY TO GO LIVE! THIS IS CAPTAIN MAGGIE SAWYER-- SHE'S IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU PEOPLE TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

CAPTAIN SAWYER, CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THAT MALL MONSTER?

IT'S ABOUT HALF AS MEAN AS I GET WHEN I FIND CIVILIANS ON THE WRONG SIDE OF A POLICE BARRICADE!

CATCH MY DRIFT?

STRENGTH SUCH AS YOURS IS *WASTED* IF YOU INSIST ON PULLING YOUR *PUNCHES*!

...

:UNGH!:

I WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH THE SAFETY OF THE CROWD TO FIGHT HIM *EFFECTIVELY*!

THAT'S THE DISADVANTAGE OF HAVING *PRINCIPLES*!

HE'S *RIGHT*!

SOMETIMES YOUR HANDS ARE REALLY *TIED*!:UNFF!:

KRANGSH!

SUPERMAN-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

M-MY TRUCK.

NOTHING BRUISED BUT MY EGO, MAGGIE! DON'T COUNT ME OUT YET!

AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, IT'S TIME FOR ROUND TWO!

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WHO'S GONNA PAY FOR THE DAMAGE TO MY TRUCK?

STRANGE. THE MONSTER IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!

AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THERE'S THE MAN RESPONSIBLE!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT BOY, MONA-- AND FAST!

HE'S STILL GOT THE BLACK DIAMOND! HE COULD MANIFEST ANOTHER ECLIPSO!

HOLD IT, MISTER. WHO ARE YOU? AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

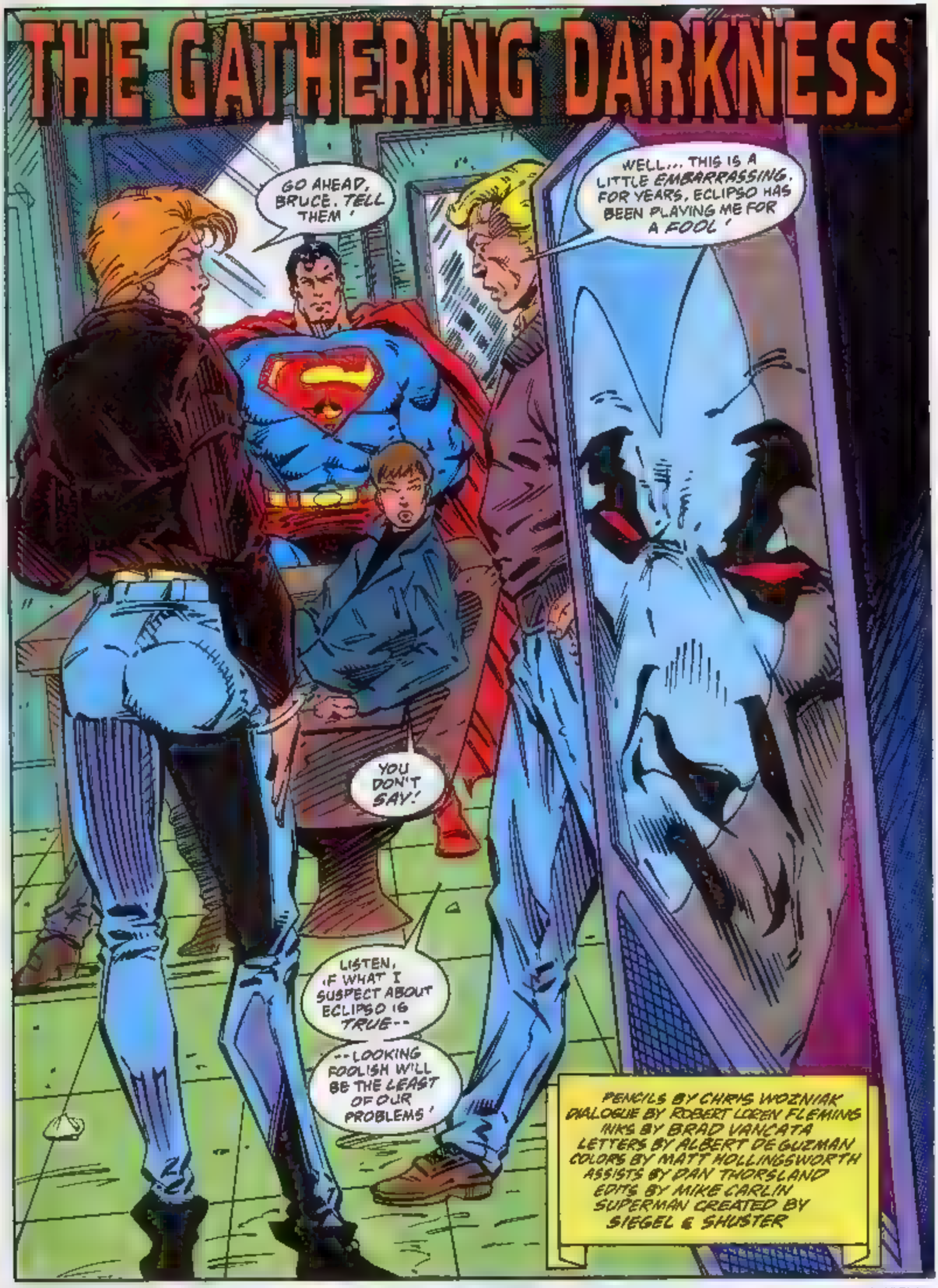
DR. BRUCE GORDON, I'M A SOLAR SCIENTIST!

MONA. DO YOU STILL HAVE THE VIDEOTAPE?

YES.

IN THAT CASE, SUPERMAN... WE CAN SHOW YOU WHAT'S GOING ON HERE

THE GATHERING DARKNESS


GO AHEAD, BRUCE. TELL THEM!
WELL... THIS IS A LITTLE EMBARRASSING. FOR YEARS, ECLIPSO HAS BEEN PLAYING ME FOR A FOOL!
YOU DON'T SAY!
LISTEN, IF WHAT I SUSPECT ABOUT ECLIPSO IS TRUE--
--LOOKING FOOLISH WILL BE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS!
PENCILS BY CHRIS WOZNIAK
DIALOGUE BY ROBERT LOREN FLEMING
INKS BY BRAD VANCATA
LETTERS BY ALBERT DE GUZMAN
COLORS BY MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
ASSISTS BY DAN THORSLAND
EDITS BY MIKE CARLIN
SUPERMAN CREATED BY SIEGEL & SHUSTER

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FOR YEARS, ECLIPSO HAS HIDDEN BEHIND THE GUISE OF A RUN-OF-THE-MILL SUPER-VILLAIN!

--HE CONCEALED HIS TRUE NATURE BEHIND THIS FAMILIAR FACADE!

WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED HIM INTO CONFRONTATIONS WITH SUPER-HEROES--

"THE MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA THOUGHT THEY WERE FIGHTING A MERE MONSTER!

"THE METAL MEN MISTOOK ECLIPSO FOR A MADMAN!

"EVEN THE PHANTOM STRANGER UNDERESTIMATED HIS OPPONENT!

"ECLIPSO PLAYED TO THE HEROES' VANITIES, ALLOWING THEM TO DEFEAT HIM IN ORDER TO AVOID EXPOSURE!"

EXPOSURE OF WHAT? IF ECLIPSO ISN'T A SUPER-VILLAIN OR A MONSTER OR A MADMAN, THEN WHAT EXACTLY IS HE?

AND WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION TO HIM, GORDON?

ECLIPSO IS THE GOD OF VENGEANCE," AND I OUGHT TO KNOW, BECAUSE UNTIL RECENTLY--

-- I WAS ECLIPSO!

"IT ALL BEGAN WHEN A CERTAIN WITCH DOCTOR, UNDER ECLIPSO'S INFLUENCE, CUT OPEN MY ARM WITH A BLACK DIAMOND!"

"I WAS ALSO FOOLED INTO BELIEVING THAT IT WAS THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN OR MOON, RATHER THAN MY OWN FEELINGS OF ANGER, WHICH TRIGGERED THE CHANGE!"

"IF I'D KNOWN THAT IT WAS THE BLACK DIAMOND ITSELF, RATHER THAN THE SCRATCH, WHICH CAUSED ME TO TURN INTO ECLIPSO, I WOULD'VE THROWN THE GEM AWAY."

"THANKS TO ECLIPSO'S CLEVER RUSE, I WASTED ENDLESS HOURS ON POINTLESS TREATMENTS AND FUTILE CURES!"

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT ECLIPSO WANTED! AS THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPERT ON SOLAR ENERGY, I REPRESENTED A GREAT THREAT.

ECLIPSO KEPT ME CONSTANTLY PREOCCUPIED, THEREBY STALLING MY VITAL RESEARCH!

OKAY, I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND. SO TELL US ABOUT THE ECLIPSO WE JUST ENCOUNTERED IN THE MALL

WAS THAT YOU? YOUR... EVIL HALF?

NO! ECLIPSO ISN'T BRUCE'S EVIL HALF, HE'S EVERYBODY'S!

THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS A THOUSAND BLACK DIAMONDS, ALL CUT FROM A GIGANTIC MYSTICAL GEM KNOWN AS THE HEART OF DARKNESS!

AND HERE'S THE REALLY BAD NEWS...

ANYONE WHO GETS ANGRY WHILE HOLDING ONE OF THOSE STONES WILL EITHER TURN INTO OR MANIFEST AN ECLIPSO!

YES, ANYBODY!

I SHOT THIS FOOTAGE EARLIER IN THE MALL. IT SHOWS A YOUNG BOY MANIFESTING THAT ECLIPSO VIDEO MONSTER!

A MANIFESTED ECLIPSO TAKES ON WHATEVER FORM ITS HOST BODY CONJURES UP!

THIS PARTICULAR KID IS A VIDEOGAME FANATIC!

ALL MY STANDARD WEAPONS AGAINST ECLIPSO WERE USELESS, UNTIL I CAME UP WITH THIS.

IT CAPTURES AND RELEASES RAYS OF PURE SUNLIGHT, WHICH IS APPARENTLY ECLIPSO'S ONE WEAKNESS!

BUT NOT FOR LONG, GORDON!

PHT

WHA--?!

KRUMP!

CRASH

THE CREEPER'? WHAT'S HIS PART IN ALL THIS?! I THOUGHT THAT HE WAS ON OUR SIDE!

WITH A NAME LIKE "CREEPER"?

I'D BETTER PLAY ALONG WITH THE CREEPER'S KNOWN "SCHTICK," SO AS TO KEEP SUPERMAN OFF-BALANCE!

HA HA HA HA HA HOOO

WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW! IT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK!

KRAK

HE KNOWS TOO MUCH ABOUT ME ALREADY, THANKS TO THAT INTERFERING GORDON!

JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT I'M OCCUPYING THE CREEPER'S BODY, SUPERMAN!

HURT ME AND YOU MAY PERMANENTLY INJURE HIM!

:OOF!:

EVERYBODY BACK! I MAY HAVE TO SHOOT!

TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO CARES, PAL!

POW POW

SAVE YOUR AMMUNITION! THAT'S NOT THE CREEPER, IT'S ECLIPSO!

SUCH A SPITFIRE! TRULY A WOMAN AFTER MY OWN HEART!

P-TING P-TING

WERE THOSE GUNSHOTS I HEARD ?

SURE WERE ! ONLY PROBLEM IS, THE DOOR IS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE !

GET OFF OF ME !

IF YOU THINK INCREDIBLE STRENGTH AND NEAR-INVULNERABILITY ARE ENOUGH TO BEAT ME, ECLIPSO--

WHAM

-- YOU'RE GOING TO COME UP SHORT !

HA ! BUT I ALSO HAVE THE BLACK DIAMOND !

I MAY BE CRAZY, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS AWAY FROM ME !

'ZAT SO ?

SUPERMAN, NO !!

SWIPE

DON'T TOUCH THAT !!!

I TRICKED YOU INTO TAKING THE BLACK DIAMOND FROM ME, SUPERMAN ! DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU... FURIOUS ?

NO !

I WAS LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEST MYSELF !

I CAN... FEEL THE EVIL GROWING INSIDE ME... BUT I'VE FACED... MUCH WORSE...

AFTER ALL, I'M SUPERMAN !

YOU BEAT ME ! NO ONE'S EVER DONE THAT BEFORE ! YOU HAVE HARDLY ANY DARK SIDE AT ALL !!

BELIEVE IT, MISTER !

FORTUNATELY, I DO HAVE ONE MORE TRICK UP MY SLEEVE !

YOU CAN'T HIT WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE !

HUH? I'M CAUGHT IN A BEAM OF BLACK LIGHT! COMPLETELY IMPENETRABLE!

EVEN MY X-RAY AND TELESCOPIC VISIONS ARE USELESS IN THIS MURK!

THAT'S BECAUSE MY ABILITIES ARE BASED IN MAGIC, SUPERMAN! EVEN YOU ARE AFFECTED!

I CAN STILL HEAR, THOUGH BLABBERMOUTH!

WHOAH!

IT'S TIME TO RETREAT! I'VE COMPLETELY LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!

I MUST REGROUP AND DEVISE A NEW PLAN OF ATTACK!

SUPERMAN WILL BE MINE YET!

TAKE IT EASY, SUPERMAN! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER SIT DOWN!

COULDN'T LET HIM KNOW.. HE ALMOST GOT ME!

IF I'M VULNERABLE TO ECLIPSO'S POWERS... THEN NO ONE IS SAFE!

IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO FIGHT OFF ECLIPSO'S GRIP AT ALL!

I'VE HAD LOTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH MIND CONTROL GAMES. DEVELOPED A RESISTANCE, YOU MIGHT SAY

NOT FINE ENOUGH TO GO AFTER ECLIPSO, THOUGH.

YOU SEEM TO BE FINE NOW.

PUT OUT AN ALL-POINTS BULLETIN ON THE CREEPER, SELLERS

NO ONE SHOULD APPROACH HIM... WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE IS!

I THINK WE CAN HELP YOU LOCATE HIM.

OH, DOES ECLIPSO HAVE A HEADQUARTERS OR A HIDEOUT?

NOT THAT WE KNOW OF...

...BUT HE CAN BE TRACKED!

THIS DEVICE WAS DESIGNED BY MY FATHER AND REFINED BY BRUCE. IT HOMES IN ON ACTIVE BLACK DIAMONDS!

WHEN A BLACK DIAMOND PRODUCES AN ECLIPSO, IT BECOMES ACTIVE, EXERTING A "TUG" ON ALL THE OTHER BLACK DIAMONDS THAT WERE ONCE FUSED TOGETHER!

THIS TRACKING COMPASS USES THAT TUG TO CALCULATE THE DIRECTION AND DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST ECLIPSO!

GOOD! IF MAGGIE HERE CAN COMMANDEER A POLICE HELICOPTER TO FLY YOU AROUND THE CITY, WE'RE IN BUSINESS!

CONSIDER IT DONE!

AND AS FOR ME...

"...AS SOON AS I GET MY SECOND WIND, I'M GOING TO CONDUCT MY OWN SUPER-SPEED SEARCH FOR THAT MANIAC!

"AFTER ALL, HOW FAR CAN HE HAVE GOTTEN?"

SUPERMAN WOULD NEVER THINK TO LOOK FOR ME HERE, AT THE BOTTOM OF A CRATER ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON!

BUT YOU DISCOVERED MY PALACE, LAR GAND, AND BECAME THE FIRST SUPER-BEING EVER TO COME UNDER MY THRALL!

NOW THAT I KNOW IT CAN BE DONE, MY APPETITE IS INSATIABLE!

SUPERMAN IS TEMPORARILY BEYOND MY GRASP, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS TO BE HAD...

...AND I INTEND TO HAVE THEM ALL!

A GUERRILLA BASE, SOMEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA...

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I'VE GOT NO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE BREAKING INTO A HEAVILY GUARDED SECRET LABORATORY!

BUT WHEN YOUR GOVERNMENT CALLS, IT'S EVERY RED-BLOODED AMERICAN BOY'S DUTY TO ANSWER!

NICE OF THEM TO PROVIDE A CONVENIENT WINDOW FOR ME TO PEEP INTO!

HOOBOY! MY CONTACT WAS RIGHT! THE NEW WEAPON LOOKS OPERATIONAL!

HOPE I'M UP TO THIS!

WE HAVE *DONE* IT, MELROSE! SUCCEEDED WHERE ALL OTHER SCIENTISTS *FAILED!*

BEFORE WE ARE THROUGH, THE ENTIRE *WORLD* WILL BEAT A PATH TO THIS PRIMITIVE HUT!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE *RIGHT*, HAYFORD.

THE MONEY WE MAKE AUCTIONING THIS WEAPON TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WILL SET US UP IN A *PROPER* LABORATORY.

STILL, I CAN'T HELP WONDERING ABOUT THAT PERIOD OF *AMNESIA* I EXPERIENCED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO...

ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU RETURNED HERE WITH THE POWER SOURCE WE HAD BEEN *SEARCHING* FOR!

GOT SOME *COMPANY* FOR YOU, DOCTORS! AND I DO MEAN *COMPANY!* C.I.A., BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

I FOUND HER CREDENTIALS, BUT DON'T ASK *WHERE!* HEH HEH HEH.

THAT WILL BE QUITE *ENOUGH*, DUNCAN! GO ALERT *PRESCOTT* THAT THERE'S BEEN A SECURITY BREACH!

OH, NO! THEY GOT PHANTOM LADY! SHE WAS MY CONTACT!

I WONDER WHO THIS GUY PRESCOTT IS?

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...

PRESCOTT?

GOT ANOTHER ONE HERE, NOT AS CUTE AS DUNCAN'S, THOUGH.

DUNCAN'S WHAT?

A WEEGUY!

WE HAVE NO TIME FOR INTERRUPTIONS! TAKE THEM OUT AND SHOOT THEM!

HEY, DUNC... I'LL FLIP YOU FOR THE GIRL!

THAT DOES IT! YOU CREEPS JUST WENT TOO FAR!

WHICH REALLY BURNS ME UP!

IT'S...STARMAN!!

YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE CHE GUEVARA?

AND GIMME THAT GUN! YOU COULD HURT SOMEBODY WITH THAT THING!

DUNCAN... MEET PRESCOTT! PRESCOTT... DUNCAN!

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?

GET HIM, HAYFORD! I'LL GO FOR REINFORCEMENTS!

SHE'S STILL OUT, BUT SHE'S BREATHING OKAY AND THERE'S A STRONG PULSE...EH?

WHOA! I'M TANGLED UP IN SOME KIND OF COSMIC VACUUM CLEANER!

TAKE THE ONE WHERE MY *PANTS* SPLIT AT THE PROM... BEEN TRYING TO GET RID OF *THAT* ONE FOR...

...OH MY GOD.

IN A WAY YOU ARE *CORRECT*, STARMAN ! OUR NEW MACHINE WILL VACUUM ALL OF THE *MEMORIES* FROM YOUR BRAIN !

:UNN!... DO ME A *FAVOR*...

AH, STOPPED JOKING, EH ? THE PROCESS OF EXTRACTING INFORMATION IS RATHER *PAINFUL* !

A BIT LIKE A *WAKING NIGHTMARE* !

NO ! COLONEL COMPUTRON ! I MUST BE *SEEING* THINGS !

AND *PLASMAX* !

:BLEGARCHHH!:

NO... I'VE ALREADY LIVED THIS NIGHTMARE !

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?! I DON'T KNOW ANY SECRETS!

I'M OF NO USE TO YOU!

OH, THERE YOU'RE WRONG, STARMAN! YOU HAVE SOMETHING WHICH I'M GOING TO FIND VERY USEFUL!

YOUR SHAPESHIFTING ABILITY!

IT WAS PATHETICALLY SIMPLE TO LURE STARMAN TO ONE OF MY MAIN OPERATIONS!

EVERYTHING IS FALLING INTO PLACE MAGNIFICENTLY! I CAN FEEL THE EARTH WITHIN MY GRASP!

SOMEBODY'S... INSIDE MY HEAD!

MY MIND IS... EXPLODING WITH STRANGE THOUGHTS AND IMAGES!

IT'S BRUCE GORDON... AND HE'S CHANGING INTO ECLIPSO!

JUST A MEMORY... OF A RECENT ADVENTURE... THAT THIS WACKY MACHINE'S PULLING OUT OF MY BRAIN!

IN STARMAN #S 42-45

STARMAN, BABY! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

ALICIA! MAN, NOW THIS MACHINE'S VIOLATING MY PRIVATE FANTASIES!

GUESS WHAT STARMAN? DR. HAYFORD AND I ARE AN ITEM!

GEEZ! KITTY AND HAYFORD! THAT'S WHAT I CALL A NIGHTMARE!

TAKE THAT, ECLIPSO!

BECAUSE YOU ARE ECLIPSO, STUPID!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHO'S THAT?! AND WHY IS HE CALLING ME ECLIPSO?!

I AM NOT! I COULD NEVER BE--

--ECLIPSO!!

AND NOW THAT I HAVE OBTAINED THE POWERFUL BODY THAT WAS THE OBJECT OF THIS OPERATION...

... I HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR ITS PATHETIC ARCHITECT, HAYFORD!

WHICH IS JUST AS WELL, SINCE HE IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A MASSIVE CORONARY SEIZURE!

:UNN:

:ERK!

AH, BUT THIS WILL COME IN HANDY!

YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT, WILL YOU, DOCTOR?

:ACK: :ACK:

FOR THAT MATTER, I WON'T BE NEEDING IT, EITHER! THIS BODY'S POWERS ESSENTIALLY DUPLICATE THE EFFECTS OF MY EYE BLASTS!

OF COURSE, IT WOULDN'T HURT TO SAVE A BLACK DIAMOND FOR A RAINY DAY!

BUT WHERE TO PUT IT?

AAAH

PERFECT!

BY INTERNALIZING THE GEM, I HAVE RENDERED IT INVISIBLE TO GORDON'S DAMNABLE DETECTION DEVICE!

THE UNIQUE ENERGIES OF THIS BODY COUNTERACT ANY TUG THE ACTIVATED GEM EXERTS ON OTHER BLACK DIAMONDS!

THIS WAY, SHOULD MY PLANS FAIL, I WILL HAVE A BACK-UP STRATEGY IN PLACE!

AS LONG AS I HOLD A SINGLE BLACK DIAMOND, I AM STILL IN THE GAME!

AH, HAYFORD IS *DEAD!*

HE PLAYED HIS PART *WELL!* BY BRIEFLY "*TAKING*" HIS COLLEAGUE, DR. MELROSE, I PROVIDED HAYFORD WITH BLACK DIAMONDS...

...BUT IT WAS *HE* WHO RECOGNIZED THEIR VALUE AS A *POWER SOURCE* AND *INCORPORATED* THEM INTO HIS *DESIGN!*

BUT NOW, HE IS MERELY *IN THE WAY!*

SKRATCH!

HAYFORD NEVER REALIZED THAT HIS MACHINE WOULD SERVE A *DUAL* FUNCTION!

OUTWARDLY STRIPPING STARMAN OF HIS *MEMORIES*...

...WHILE THE BLACK DIAMONDS POWERING THE DEVICE CORRUPTED THE *INNER* MAN...

...CLEARING THE WAY FOR MY *ENTRY!*

FWOOOM!
NOW TO REMOVE SAID POWER SOURCE...
... AND ELIMINATE ANY TRACES OF THE WEAPON, THEREBY COVERING MY TRAIL COMPLETELY!
SKREE-POW!
FOR THAT IS WHY I HAVE GONE TO SUCH GREAT LENGTHS TO OBTAIN THIS PARTICULAR BODY!
ITS SHAPESHIFTING ABILITY...
... MEANS THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO HIDE MY PRESENCE...
... THEREBY ENABLING ME TO SPY ON THE SUPER-HEROES, LEARN THEIR PLANS, AND INFLUENCE THEIR STRATEGIES!

AMAZING! WHEN HAYFORD CYBERNETICALLY JOINED WITH THE COMPUTER, IT REMOLDED ITSELF INTO HUMAN FORM!

THESE HUMANS ARE DANGEROUS! THEIR CAPACITY FOR INVENTION MAKES THEM WILDLY UNPREDICTABLE!

AHEM!

DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

OH... UHH... HI!

MUST RESTRUCTURE MY VOCAL CORDS AS I DID THIS FACE...

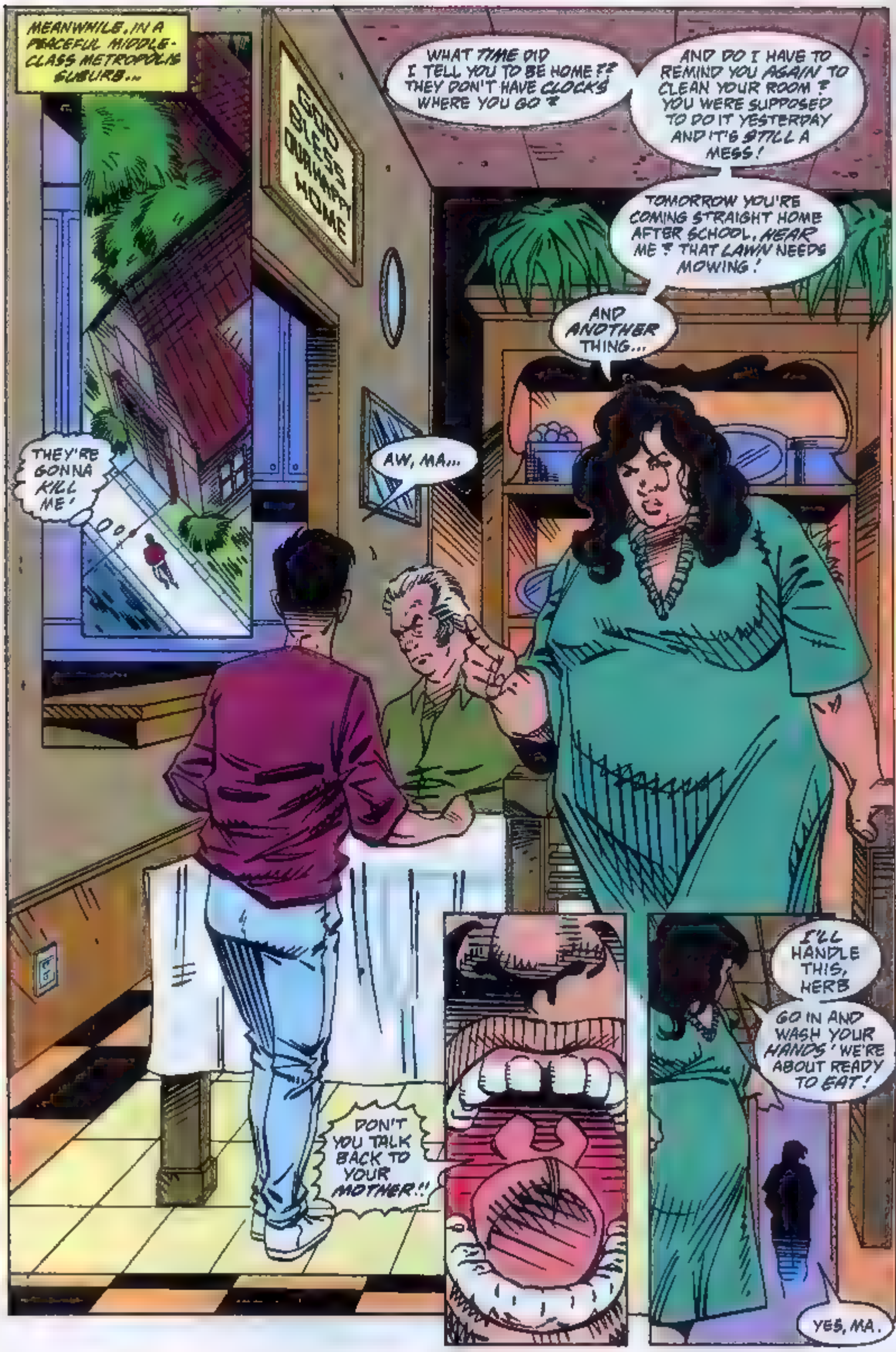
...SO THAT I WILL SOUND AS CONVINCING AS I LOOK!

EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL, PHANTOM LADY! I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

I'M FINE AND NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT FROG OUT OF YOUR THROAT, HOW ABOUT GIVING ME A RUNDOWN?

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY?

TRUST ME!


MEANWHILE, IN A PEACEFUL MIDDLE-CLASS METROPOLIS SUBURB...
GOOD GUESS OUR NEXT HOME
WHAT TIME DID I TELL YOU TO BE HOME?! THEY DON'T HAVE CLOCKS WHERE YOU GO?
AND DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU AGAIN TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO IT YESTERDAY AND IT'S STILL A MESS!
TOMORROW YOU'RE COMING STRAIGHT HOME AFTER SCHOOL, HEAR ME? THAT LAWN NEEDS MOWING!
AND ANOTHER THING...
THEY'RE GONNA KILL ME!
AW, MA...
DON'T YOU TALK BACK TO YOUR MOTHER!!
I'LL HANDLE THIS, HERB
GO IN AND WASH YOUR HANDS! WE'RE ABOUT READY TO EAT!
YES, MA.

;SIGH;

LEAST I'VE STILL GOT MY *LUCKY STONE*... NOT THAT IT'S BROUGHT ME MUCH LUCK *LATELY*!

MUST *FIND* THAT BOY BEFORE THE BLACK DIAMOND HE'S HOLDING MANIFESTS ANOTHER *ECLIPSO*! THIS TIME HE COULD BE *HURT*!

GORDON, ARE YOU *READING* ME? IS THIS *MICROTRANSMITTER* IN MY EAR DOING ITS JOB?

YOU'RE COMING IN LOUD AND CLEAR, SUPERMAN.

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

JUST YELL IF YOU FIND ANYTHING, AND WE'LL DO THE SAME!

FLY AS LOW AS YOU *CAN* PILOT, AND SWEEP THROUGH NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE *METROPOLIS MALL*!

AND HURRY!

"I HAVE A FEELING THAT BOY IS IN BIG TROUBLE!
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THOSE VIDEO GAMES AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU? WASTING YOUR TIME AND MY MONEY!
'S BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND HERE GETTING FAT!
THIS'LL TEACH YOU TO SASS YOUR MOTHER!!
:UNH:
KRAK
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE NOW, HERB! HE'S BLEEDING!
AHH, SERVES HIM RIGHT!
MY NOSE! YOU BROKE MY NOSE!
I WISH...
I WISH YOU WERE BOTH DEAD!!
YOU HEARD THE CHILD, PREPARE TO DIE!
:BLEEARGHHH!:

GORDON, IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE STRUCK PAY DIRT!

THIS BEEPER OF YOURS IS GOING OFF LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

I'LL READ YOU THE COORDINATES...

MARGARET, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!!

THAT THING'S...GOT MY REFRIGERATOR!

I'LL BUY YOU A NEW ONE! JUST DUCK!!

UH-OH. SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M A LITTLE LATE.

FUHF!! THIS IS NOT YOUR NORMAL DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE!

NOW THAT I'VE RESCUED THEIR ICEBOX, I'D BETTER SEE TO THAT FAMILY!

LOOKS LIKE I GET TO GO A SECOND ROUND WITH THAT CREATURE AFTER ALL!

YOU HAVE A NASTY HABIT OF PICKING ON THE WEAK AND HELPLESS, ECLIPSO!

YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO GORDON, SUPERMAN! SO YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER!

I DON'T "PICK" ON ANYONE! I SIMPLY KILL THEM!!

NOT WHILE I'M AROUND, YOU DON'T!!

AND I'M GOING TO BE AROUND ALL THE TIME FROM HERE ON IN!

WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHATEVER YOU DO, I'LL BE THERE TO OPPOSE YOU!

AND THAT'S A PROMISE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MARGARET?

NEVER MIND ABOUT ME! WE HAVE TO GET KENNY OUT OF HERE!

HE'S SICK, HERB!

KRASH

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME WITH THAT *PUREHEART* ROUTINE, SUPERMAN I ALMOST *HAD* YOU EARLIER TODAY!

EVEN *YOU* HAVE A DARK SIDE!

SMASH

I NEVER CLAIMED TO BE *PERFECT*! BUT I DO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG...

...AND YOU'RE AS WRONG AS THEY *COME*!

WHUMP!

GET YOUR BOY TO A HOSPITAL! HE REQUIRES IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION!

AND SO WILL YOU, SUPERMAN...

...BEFORE I'M DONE WITH YOU!

ARRGH!

HANDS OFF, MONSTER! I DON'T DANCE WITH DEVILS!

WAM

YOU DO, SUPERMAN... WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT!

WHUMP

WHUMP

WHUMP

EH?

WHUP WHUP WHUP

SUPERMAN! YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT ECLIPSO WITH BRUTE FORCE!

YOU NEED DIRECT SUNLIGHT TO GET RID OF HIM!

I MANAGED TO REPAIR THE SOLAR TRAP I USED ON HIM IN THE MALL!

HERE, CATCH!

NO! YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME THAT EASILY!

PUT DOWN THE WEAPON, SUPERMAN.. OR I'LL SNAP THE BOY'S NECK!

OKAY! IT'S DOWN!

THAT OILY PUDDLE ON THE DRIVEWAY MAY BE THE BOY'S SALVATION! IF I CAN CALCULATE THE PROPER TRAJECTORY...

KLIK

AIIIEEE!!

AND NOW THAT HE'S RELEASED THE BOY, A DIRECT BURST SHOULD FINISH HIM!

I'LL BE BACK!! DO YOU HEAR ME??

I'LL... BE... BAAAAAAA!!

LOOKS HARMLESS ENOUGH, DOESN'T IT?

I'LL PLACE IT IN THIS DETECTOR WHERE IT CAN'T DO ANY *HARM*!

YOU DID A WONDERFUL THING, HELPING THAT *FAMILY*, SUPERMAN.

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO WORK OUT THEIR *PROBLEMS* NOW!

DON'T THANK *ME*... CREDIT *ECLIPSO* FOR THIS ONE!

THOSE PARENTS WERE *FRIGHTENED* INTO TAKING A HARD LOOK AT THEMSELVES!

THAT FATHER BROKE HIS BOY'S *NOSE*! FRANKLY, IF I'D BEEN HOLDING A BLACK DIAMOND, I WOULD'VE GONE AFTER HIM *MYSELF*!

THIS CAN SOMETIMES BE AN *UGLY WORLD*, SUPERMAN... AND ECLIPSO KNOWS JUST HOW TO *EXPLOIT* THAT!

SUPERMAN! I HAVE A LOCATION ON THAT CURIO SHOP WHERE THE BOY SAYS HE BOUGHT THE BLACK DIAMOND!

LET'S ROLL!

MOONSTONE GIFTS & CURIOS

TERRIFIC...

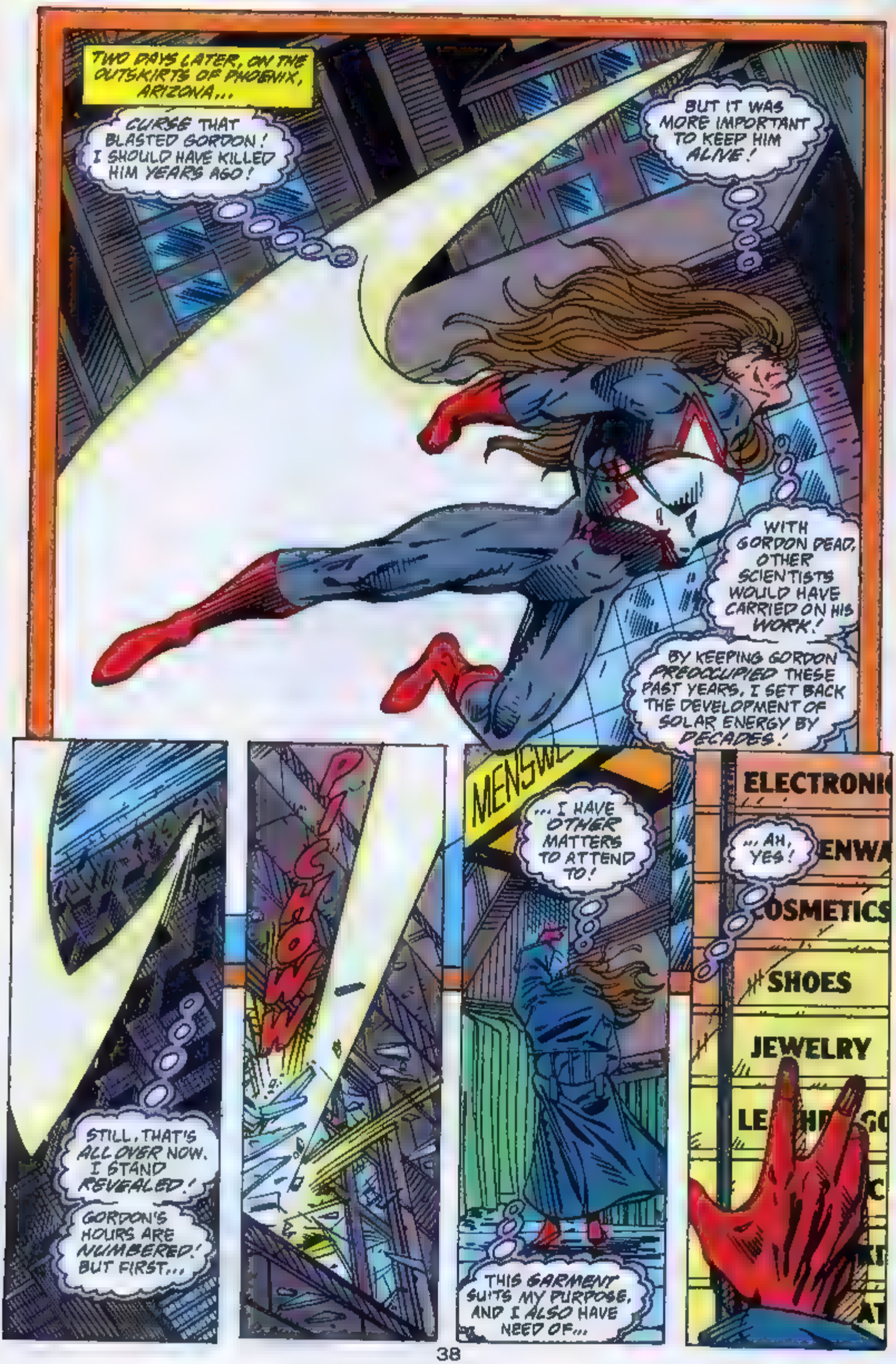
...IT LOOKS LIKE THE TRAIL JUST WENT COLD!

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN ABANDONED AND THERE'S NO RECORD ON THE CURATOR!

YES, THERE IS! THE CURATOR WAS ECLIPSO! I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES!

ECLIPSO HAS BEEN IN MY BONES... INSIDE MY BRAIN! BUT FORTUNATELY FOR US--

-- I'VE ALSO BEEN INSIDE HIS!


TWO DAYS LATER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PHOENIX, ARIZONA...
CURSE THAT BLASTED GORDON! I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM YEARS AGO!
BUT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO KEEP HIM ALIVE!
WITH GORDON DEAD, OTHER SCIENTISTS WOULD HAVE CARRIED ON HIS WORK!
BY KEEPING GORDON PREOCCUPIED THESE PAST YEARS, I SET BACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY BY DECADES!
STILL, THAT'S ALL OVER NOW. I STAND REVEALED!
GORDON'S HOURS ARE NUMBERED! BUT FIRST...
PICHOW
MENSWE
... I HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!
THIS GARMENT SUITS MY PURPOSE, AND I ALSO HAVE NEED OF...
... AH, YES!
ELECTRONI
ENWA
OSMETICS
SHOES
JEWELRY

DING DONG

ERR... WHAT?

DING DONG DING DONG

THE... DOORBELL? DID I OVERSLEEP?

DING DONG

DING DONG

AM

!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

DING DONG DING DONG

DING DONG DING DING DONG DING DONG

ALL RIGHT! HOLD YOUR HORSES! I'M COMING ALREADY!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT--

-- TIME IT IS?

HUH? NO ONE HERE! BUT... WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S ... A RING!

BUT WHO COULD'VE LEFT IT HERE? AND WHY?

THIS DARK GEM IS SO... INTRIGUING!

I WONDER WHAT IT'S CALLED?

IT'S A BLACK DIAMOND, KITTY DEAR.

WHO ARE YOU? I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!

NO, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL PLACE THE FACE!

DR. THOMAS MOYERS!

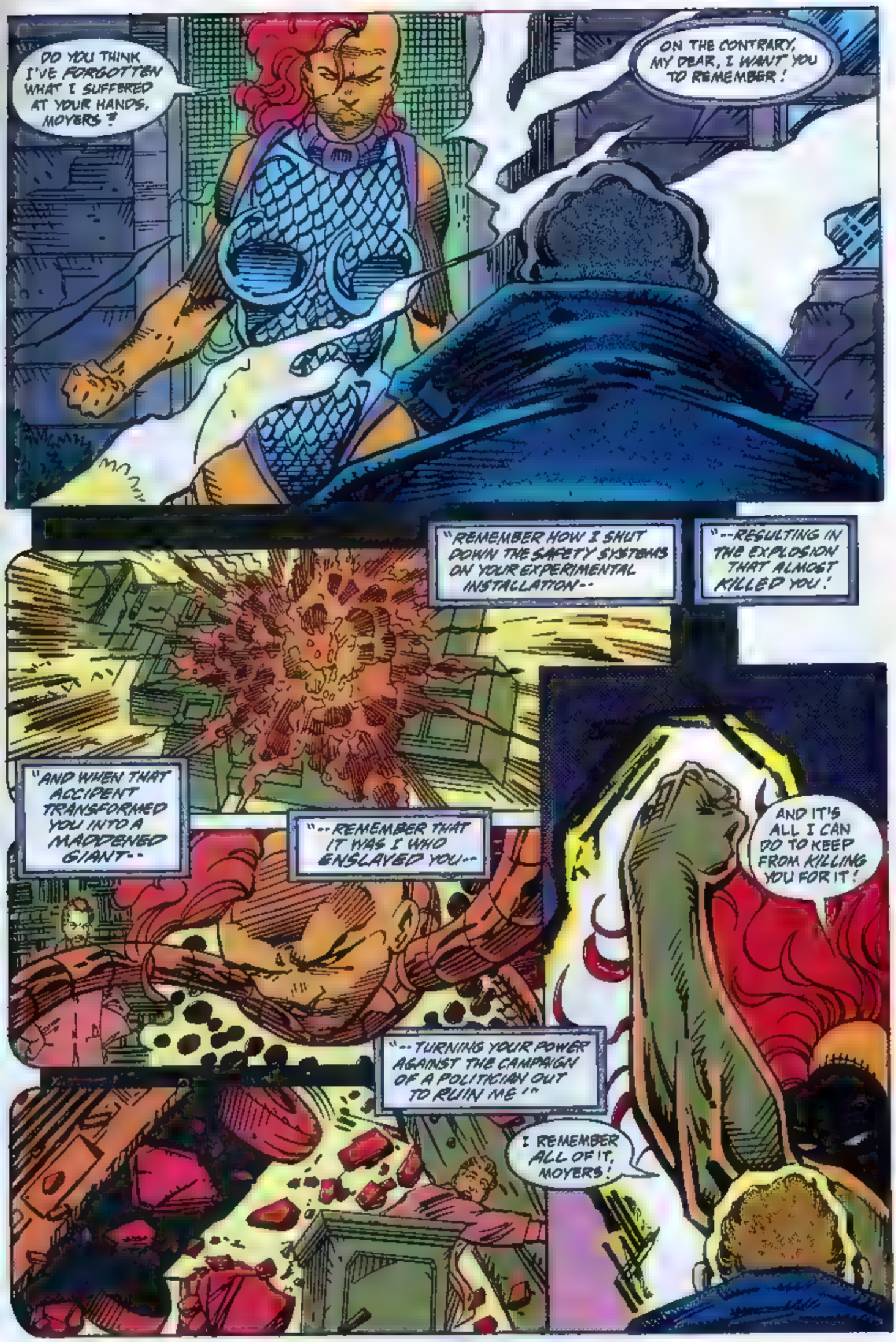
THE MAN WHO ALMOST GOT ME KILLED!*

AND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ORIGINAL TRANSFORMATION INTO THE CREATURE KNOWN AS--

*IN SUPERMAN #7 AND #24.

RAMPAGE!

A TRANSFORMATION I CAN NOW MAKE AT WILL--THANKS TO MY REGULATOR HARNESS.


DO YOU THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT I SUFFERED AT YOUR HANDS, MOYERS?
ON THE CONTRARY, MY DEAR, I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER!
"REMEMBER HOW I SHUT DOWN THE SAFETY SYSTEMS ON YOUR EXPERIMENTAL INSTALLATION--
"--RESULTING IN THE EXPLOSION THAT ALMOST KILLED YOU!
"AND WHEN THAT ACCIDENT TRANSFORMED YOU INTO A MADDENED GIANT--
"--REMEMBER THAT IT WAS I WHO ENSLAVED YOU--
AND IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP FROM KILLING YOU FOR IT!
"--TURNING YOUR POWER AGAINST THE CAMPAIGN OF A POLITICIAN OUT TO RUIN ME!"
I REMEMBER ALL OF IT, MOYERS!

YOU IDIOT! DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT YOUR COMING HERE WOULD INFURIATE ME?

OH, YES!

WITH A NAME LIKE RAMPAGE, I WAS COUNTING ON IT!

AND NOW, IT SEEMS THAT MY WORK HERE IS FINISHED...

...SO I CAN DISPENSE WITH THIS MASQUERADE AND CONTINUE ON MY WAY!

PERFECT! I NOW CONTROL TWO OF EARTH'S SOLAR-POWERED BEINGS!

THIS WAS ALMOST TOO EASY...

WHAT?!?

NO ONE ESCAPES THE WRATH OF ECLIPSO!!

BUT I AM ECLIPSO! WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE!

WE CANNOT FIGHT!

WE MUST...

...FOR YOU OF ALL PEOPLE REALIZE THAT EACH NEWLY ECLIPSED HUMAN IS COMPELLED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE VERY RAGE WHICH ALLOWED YOU ACCESS TO THAT HOST BODY!

AND UNFORTUNATELY THIS TIME YOU ARE THE ONE WHO ANGERED THIS BODY!

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...

WE'RE COMING INTO PHOENIX, GUYS

I SURE HOPE THIS IS IT. I'VE BEEN FLYING ALMOST NON-STOP FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS!

OUR SEARCH IS DEFINITELY OVER, MONA.

A BLACK DIAMOND IS VERY CLOSE. MAYBE EVEN TWO OF THEM..

...AND THEY APPEAR TO BE FULLY ACTIVATED!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

HERE YOU GO, SUPERMAN! YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS!

THANKS, BRUCE.

WISH ME LUCK!

WHEN SUPERMAN NEEDS LUCK...

...YOU GOTTA KNOW WE'RE ALL IN BIG TROUBLE!

WHILE, OFF IN THE DISTANCE...

THERE HE IS! I'LL SNEAK UP BEHIND HIM AND--

METEOR CRATER ARIZONA

-- STOMP HIM TO DEATH!!

WE CANNOT SNEAK UP ON ONE ANOTHER!

KR-WHOOSH

WE SHARE THE SAME MIND-- THE SAME THOUGHTS!!

MY MISCALCULATION HAS PUT ME IN THE ABSURD POSITION OF FIGHTING MYSELF...

I WOULD RATHER SEE YOU DEAD THAN LET YOU GET AWAY!

VVVSHH

... BUT THAT STOPS NOW!!

WHAT IS THIS ? STILL ALIVE ?!

NOW I SEE THAT I AM *RIGHT* TO FIGHT FOR SUCH A *POWER FUL VESSEL!*

CRACKLE CRACKLE

COME *FORTH!*

LET US *TEST* THESE BODIES IN A TOURNAMENT OF *FIRE!*

BEEP BEEP BEEP

?

WHOK

AH, THE *MAN OF STEEL!*

THIS IS *TOO* PERFECT!

I ONLY NEED ALTER MY FEATURES AND VOCAL CORDS TO THOSE OF THE HEROIC *STARMAN...*

...AND SUPERMAN WILL GLADLY DO MY FIGHTING *FOR ME!!*

HELLO, STARMAN.

I SEE THAT RAMPAGE HAS TURNED INTO AN *ECLIPSO!*

IS *THAT* WHAT YOU CALL THOSE THINGS?!

I DUNNO... I THINK I GOT HER *ANGRY* OR SOMETHING...

"... AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, SHE WAS LIKE *THAT!*

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU *CAME ALONG,* SUPERMAN!

SHE'S MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE!

ACTUALLY, IF THAT'S *ECLIPSO* IT'S A "*HE,*" BUT WE WON'T GET *INTO* THAT NOW!

ARRRR!

HERE SHE *COMES!*

LET *ME* HANDLE THIS, STARMAN!

SO, ECLIPSO, WE MEET *AGAIN!*

FOR THE *LAST TIME,* SUPERMAN!

-UNH-

HEY, BACK OFF, LADY--SUPERMAN'S GOT SOME REINFORCEMENTS HERE!

KAPOOM!

YOU ARE THE ONE I AM AFTER!

ANYONE WHO STANDS BETWEEN US MUST DIE!!

I CANNOT REST UNTIL I HAVE COMPLETED THIS TASK!

YOU'RE WALKING STRAIGHT INTO FULLFORCE BLASTS LIKE THEY WERE PUFFS OF SMOKE!

LOOK OUT BELOW!

:WUFF:

SORRY, SUPERMAN! SHE SENT ME FLYING!

NOT YOUR FAULT, STARMAN! ECLIPSO IS A TOUGH CUSTOMER!

TOUGH ENOUGH TO KILL MY PREY RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE, MAN OF STEEL!

NO!

I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT!

ZZZZKR-

ACKK!

I MADE A PROMISE TO YOU A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, AND IT STILL STANDS...

WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHATEVER YOU DO, I'LL BE THERE--

THUD!

--TO OPPOSE YOU!

YOU CAN OPPOSE ME ALL YOU WANT, MAN OF STEEL--

--AFTER THIS ONE IS DEAD!!

WHA--!?

MY HANDS... ARE ON FIRE!!

IT'S CALLED HEAT VISION, ECLIPSO!

JUST AS I'M VULNERABLE TO YOUR ABILITIES BECAUSE THEY'RE BASED IN MAGIC--

--SO, TOO, ARE YOU VULNERABLE TO MY POWERS BECAUSE THEY'RE DERIVED FROM THE SUN!

;ARRRGH!

SSSSSS

I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, SUPERMAN

COME BACK AND FIGHT?!

TURN AND FACE ME, IF YOU--

--DARE?

WHAT MANNER OF TRICK IS THIS?

FIRST HE GOADS ME INTO BATTLE, THEN HE STREAKS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE...

...WHERE HE CIRCLES AROUND AND COMES UP BEHIND YOU!

IS THIS...WHAT YOU'VE COME TO, SUPERMAN?

A... SNEAK ATTACK?

OH, THIS ISN'T AN ATTACK...

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING I'M DYING TO SHOW YOU!

NO.!!

THE RISING SUN.!!

SUNRISE ISN'T DUE AT METEOR CRATER FOR ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES!

BUT I JUST COULDN'T WAIT...

...KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

:UNGH:

THUD!

OH GOD.

WHERE AM I?

WHAT HAPPENED TO...

...MMM...

I'M GETTING A READING FROM THIS DIRECTION, MONA.

FROM THE CRATER!

MY HEAD!

IT WAS LUCKY FOR ME THAT SUPERMAN PROVIDED THAT DIVERSION!

THERE'S A FIGURE DOWN THERE, MONA.

CAN'T QUITE MAKE IT OUT...

BEEP BEEP BEEP

GORDON!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET RID OF HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!

GET BEHIND ME, SWEETHEART!

I THINK WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

CURSE THE LUCK! THE SUN IS COMING UP!

I AM FORCED TO DELAY MY REVENGE OR RISK LOSING THIS BODY!

BRUCE, THAT WAS STARMAN!

HEY, STARMAN!

HMMM... I COULD HAVE SWORN HE SAW US... LOOKED RIGHT AT ME!

WHAT DO YOU THINK'S GOTTEN INTO HIM?

I DON'T KNOW, MONA.

I DON'T KNOW...

I SAW THAT SNUB, FOLKS. IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, STARMAN'S PROBABLY STILL PUNCHY...

...FROM HIS BATTLE WITH THIS LITTLE LADY.

OF COURSE, SHE LOOKED A LOT BIGGER AND MEANER THEN!

ECLIPSO?

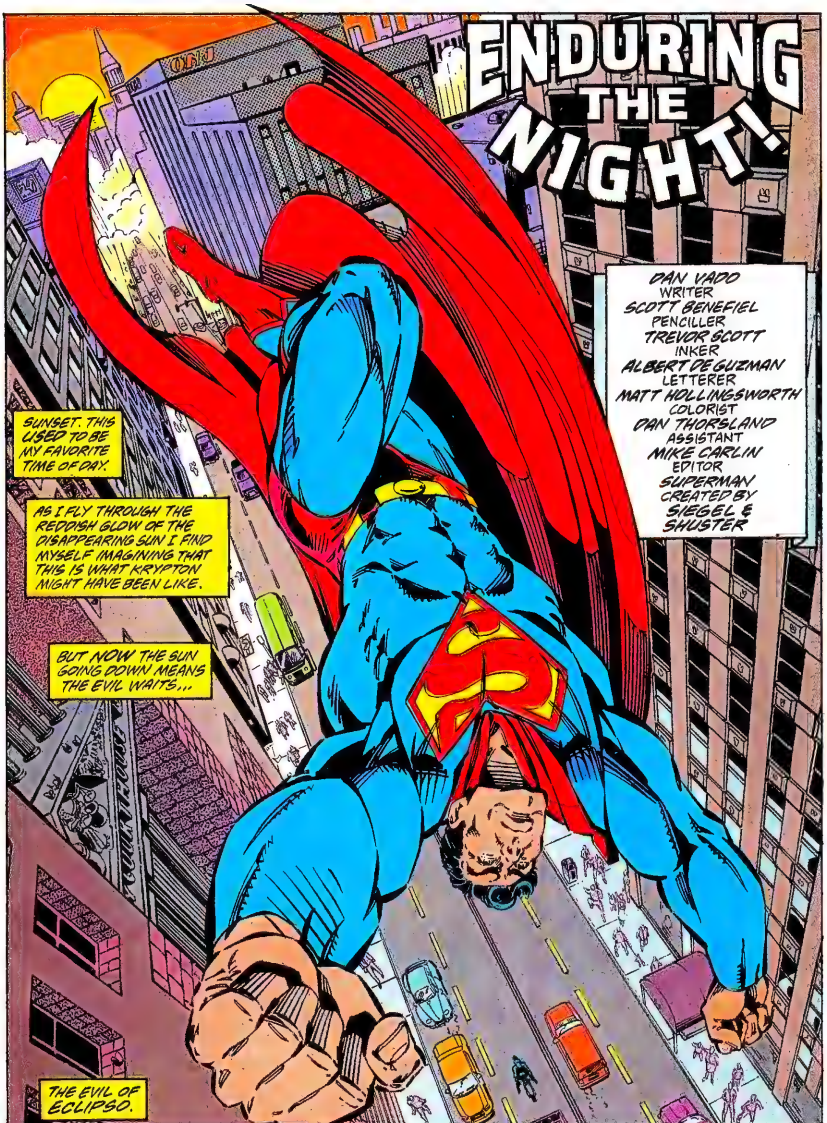
ECLIPSO

HE AND I WATCHED THE SUN RISE TOGETHER.

YOU UP TO ONE MORE FLIGHT, MONA?

ANYTHING TO RELAX BEFORE SUNDOWN, BRUCE... THESE LAST FEW NIGHTS HAVE BEEN MURDER!

ECLIPSO SURFACES NEXT IN GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL #1, ON SALE IN ONE WEEK!



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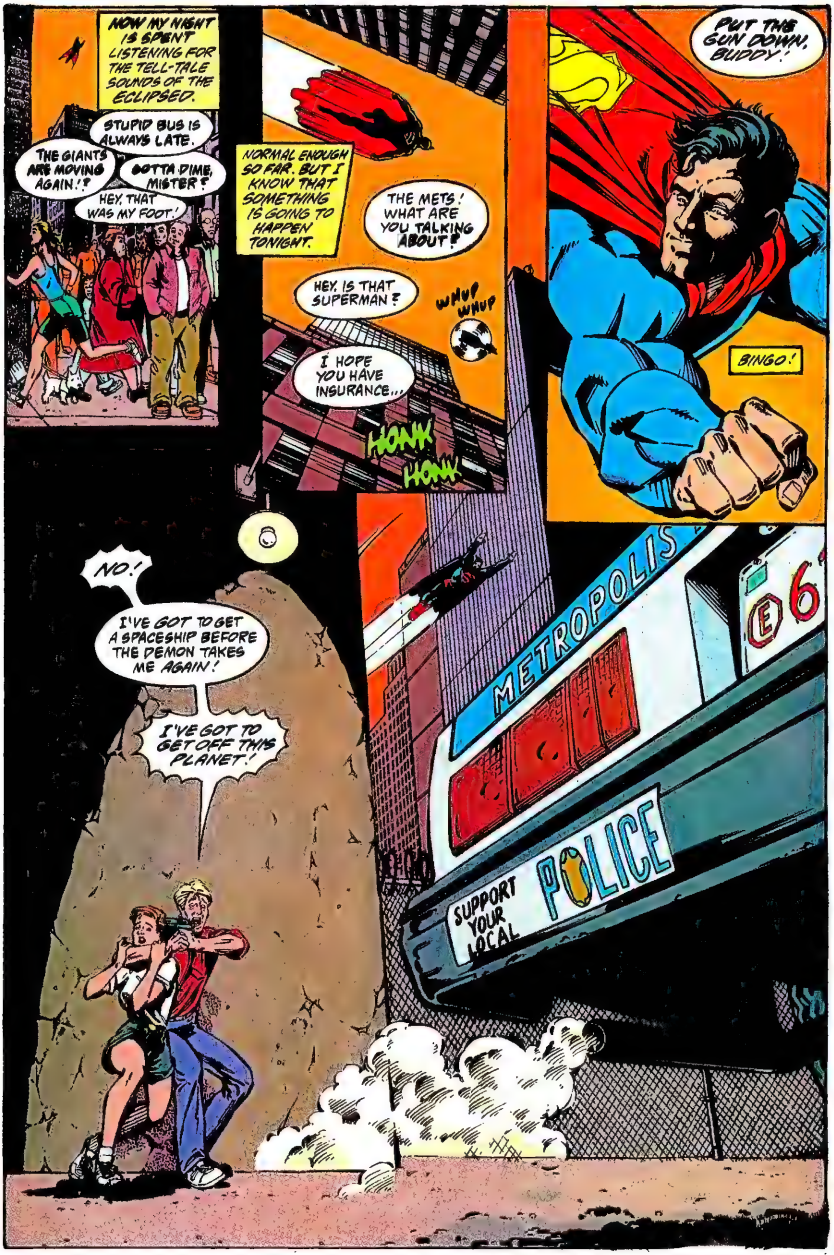
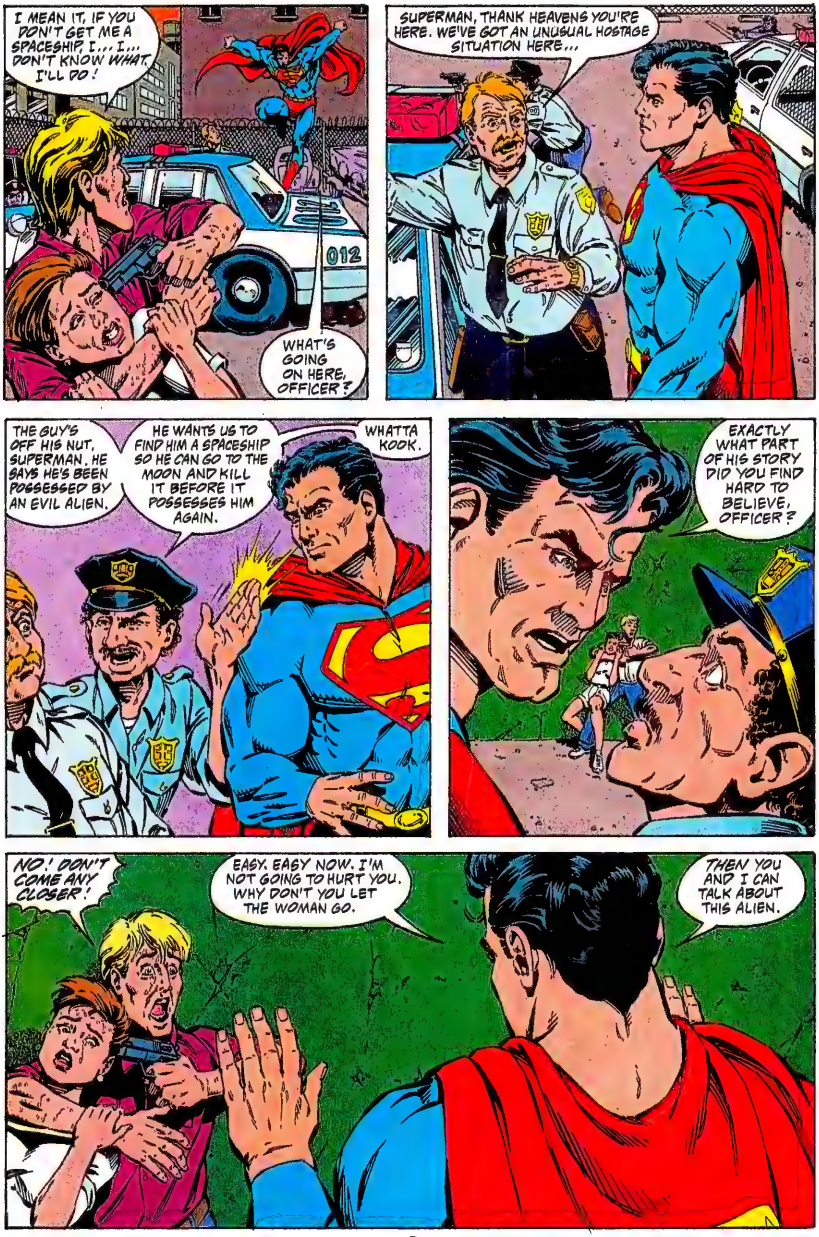
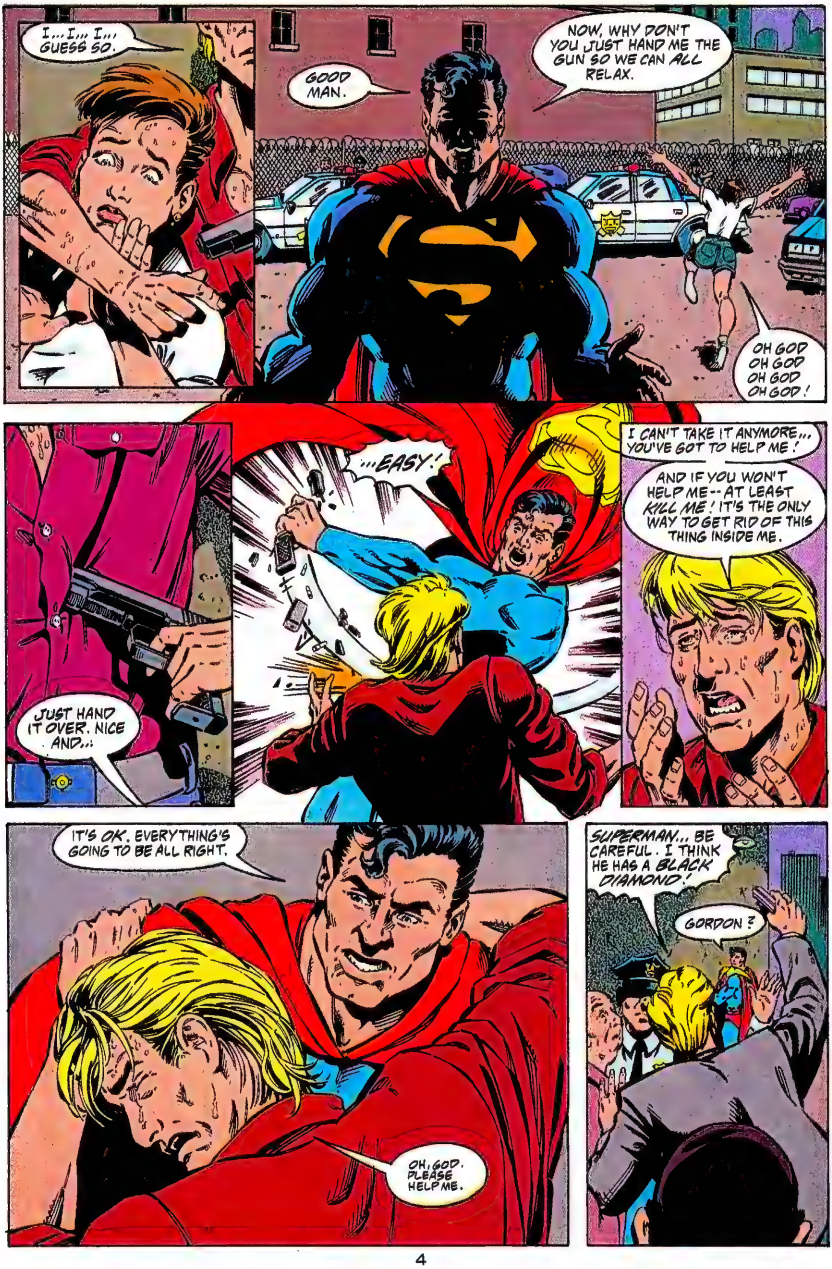

NOW MY NIGHT IS SPENT LISTENING FOR THE TELL-TALE SOUNDS OF THE ECLIPSED.
STUPID BUS IS ALWAYS LATE.
THE GIANTS ARE MOVING AGAIN!?
GOTTA DIME, MISTER?
HEY, THAT WAS MY FOOT!
NORMAL ENOUGH SO FAR. BUT I KNOW THAT SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TONIGHT.
THE METS! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HEY, IS THAT SUPERMAN?
WHUP WHUP
I HOPE YOU HAVE INSURANCE...
HONK HONK
PUT THE GUN DOWN, BUDDY.
BINGO!
NO!
I'VE GOT TO GET A SPACESHIP BEFORE THE DEMON TAKES ME AGAIN!
I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS PLANET!
METROPOLIS
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE

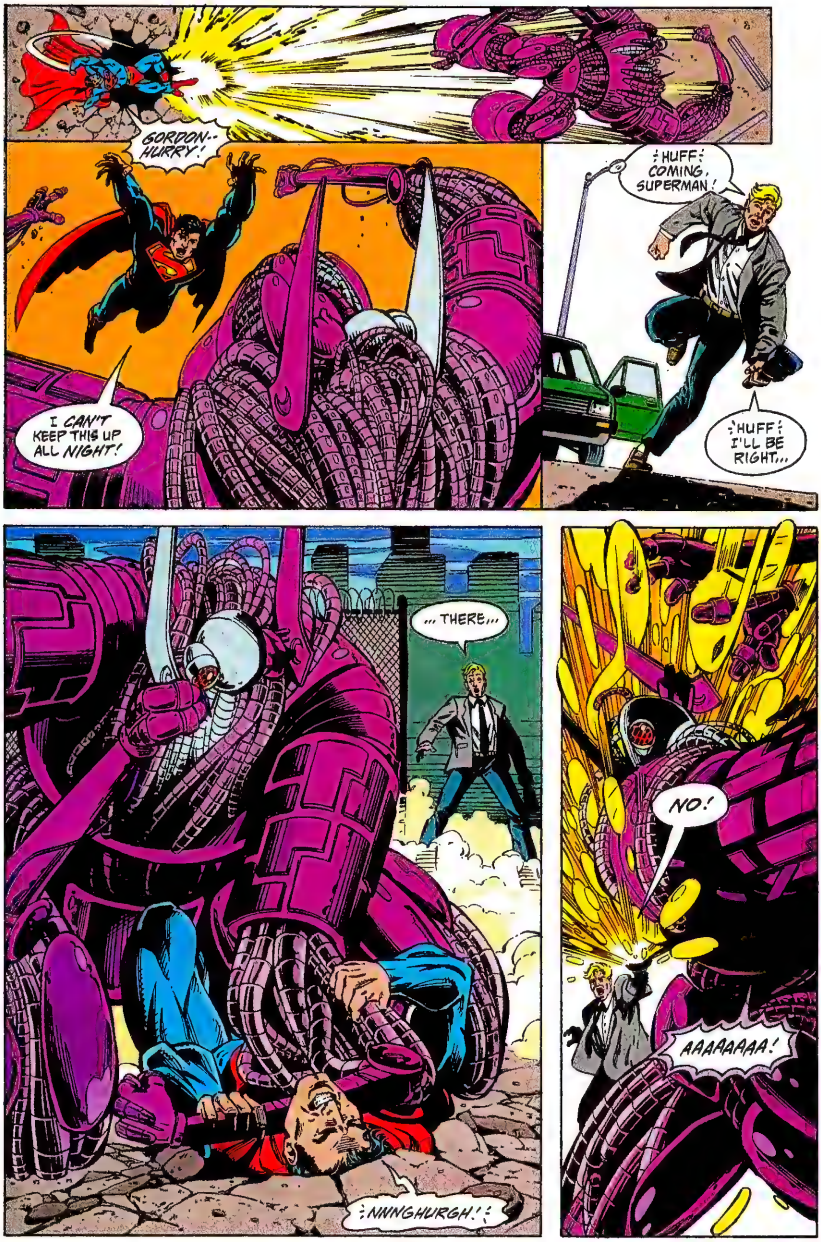

I MEAN IT, IF YOU DON'T GET ME A SPACESHIP, I... I... DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO!
012
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, OFFICER?
SUPERMAN, THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE. WE'VE GOT AN UNUSUAL HOSTAGE SITUATION HERE...
THE GUY'S OFF HIS NUT, SUPERMAN. HE SAYS HE'S BEEN POSSESSED BY AN EVIL ALIEN.
HE WANTS US TO FIND HIM A SPACESHIP SO HE CAN GO TO THE MOON AND KILL IT BEFORE IT POSSESSES HIM AGAIN.
WHATTA KOOK.
EXACTLY WHAT PART OF HIS STORY DID YOU FIND HARD TO BELIEVE, OFFICER?
NO! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
EASY. EASY NOW. I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. WHY DON'T YOU LET THE WOMAN GO.
THEN YOU AND I CAN TALK ABOUT THIS ALIEN.


I...I,,, I,,, GUESS SO.
GOOD MAN.
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAND ME THE GUN SO WE CAN ALL RELAX.
OH GOD OH GOD OH GOD OH GOD!
JUST HAND IT OVER. NICE AND,,,
,,,EASY!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE,,, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
AND IF YOU WON'T HELP ME--AT LEAST KILL ME! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THIS THING INSIDE ME.
IT'S OK. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
OH, GOD. PLEASE HELP ME.
SUPERMAN,,, BE CAREFUL. I THINK HE HAS A BLACK DIAMOND!
GORDON?

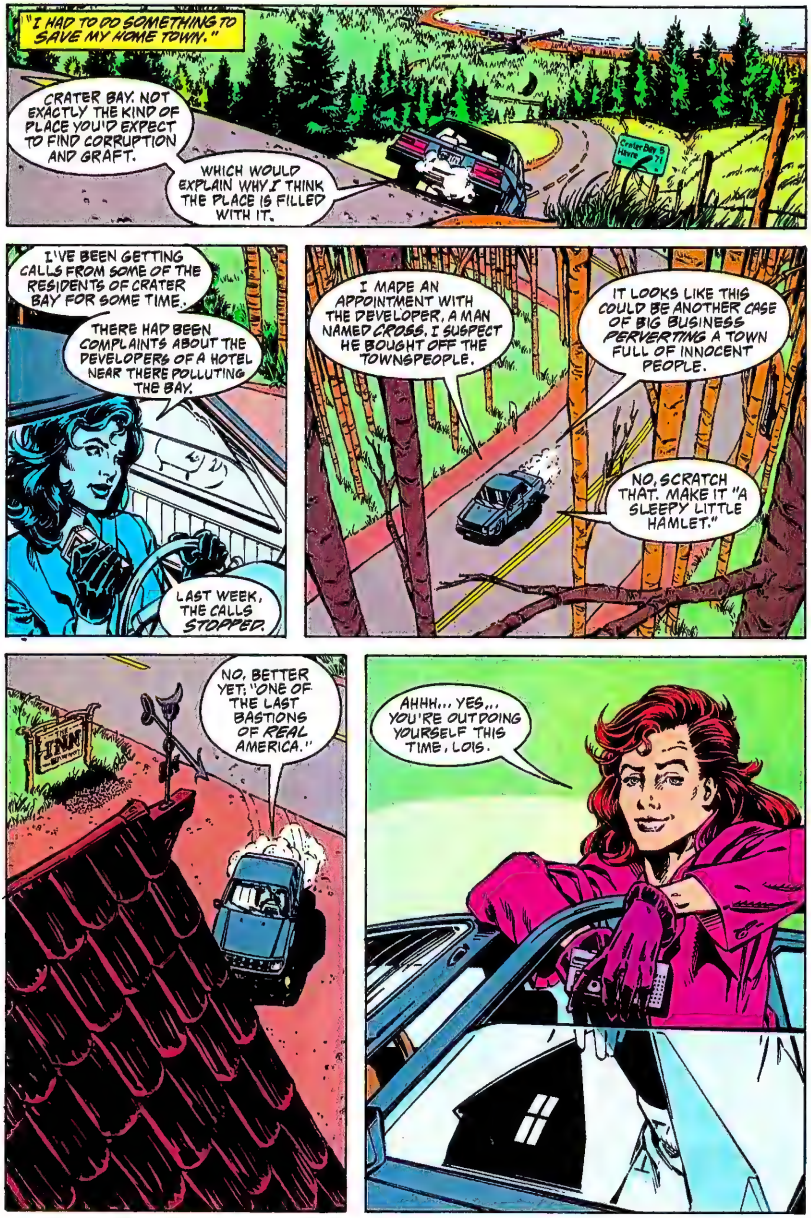
DO YOU KNOW THAT LOONEY TOON, SUPERMAN?
BUGGING US SINCE YOU GOT HERE.
THAT "LOONEY TOON" HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS IN AMERICA.
I WOULD SUGGEST YOU LET HIM THROUGH.
ON SECOND THOUGHT I THINK I'LL GO TALK TO HIM MYSELF. WHY DON'T YOU MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL AND TAKE CARE OF THIS MAN.
SUPERMAN, PLEASE BE CAREFUL AROUND THAT MAN. I THINK HE HAS A BLACK DIAMOND--
--AND I'D BE WILLING TO BET THAT ECLIPSO WAS TRYING TO SET SOME SORT OF A TRAP FOR YOU.
STUPID SUPER ZEROES. WHO NEEDS EM ANYWAYS. ALL THEY DO IS SHOW US UP, ACTING SUPERIOR... REALLY GETS A GUY MA--!
HEY! I THINK I FOUND...
DON'T WORRY, DR. GORDON. EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL HERE.
...SOMETHING...
AAAAHHHA!

AHHHH! WHAT'S HAPPENING!
NO! NO! NOOO! THE BEAST IS BACK!
GORDON! WE'RE GOING TO NEED THAT FLASHLIGHT OF YOURS!
RIGHT AWAY, SUPERMAN.
SOMEBODY GET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHOOOF!
KROOM
BAD MOVE, ECLIPSO!
B'KASH
BAD-- BECAUSE IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE ME MAD!
KTSHH
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP, SUPERMAN?
HAVE YOUR MEN HOLD THEIR FIRE.
YOUR FRIEND IS TRAPPED IN THAT SUIT AND I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH FORCE I SHOULD USE.

HOW MUCH FORCE, SUPERMAN?
WHY, AS MUCH AS YOU NEED!
HUFF HUFF HUFF!
DAMN!
LOCKED!
KEYS. WHERE ARE MY KEYS!
GORDON!
KRUNCH!
GOT IT!


GORDON-- HURRY!
I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP ALL NIGHT!
:HUFF: COMING, SUPERMAN!
:HUFF: I'LL BE RIGHT...
...THERE...
:NNNGHURGH!:
NO!
AAAAAAAA!

THANK YOU... THANK YOU...
GOOD WORK, GORDON, I WAS IN REAL TROUBLE FOR A MINUTE HERE.
AMAA AMAA AMAA...
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
I SUPPOSE HE MUST HAVE BEEN MAD AT YOU FOR SOME REASON.
I WOULD SUGGEST BEING CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU SAY TO PEOPLE.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
IT'S POSSIBLE HE WAS POSSESSED BY ECLIPSO AT ONE TIME. BUT HE DOESN'T USUALLY RELEASE HIS HOLD ON HIS VICTIMS. UNLESS...
HMMM... IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO FIND OUT EXACTLY HOW HE GOT THE DIAMOND.
HOW ABOUT IT... CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THAT DIAMOND CAME FROM?
I... I'M NOT SURE...
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS BEING IN MY HOME IN CRATER BAY.
SOMETHING... EVIL HAD COME OVER A BUNCH OF THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN.
I HAD JUST ABOUT FIGURED OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON WHEN IT POSSESSED ME. THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS HERE.
SOMEHOW I KNEW THE THING LIVED ON THE MOON...
I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNEW... BUT I DID KNOW I HAD TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE THAT EVIL TOOK ME AGAIN.


"I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE MY HOME TOWN."
CRATER BAY. NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF PLACE YOU'D EXPECT TO FIND CORRUPTION AND GRAFT.
WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN WHY I THINK THE PLACE IS FILLED WITH IT.
Crater Bay 5 Miles
I'VE BEEN GETTING CALLS FROM SOME OF THE RESIDENTS OF CRATER BAY FOR SOME TIME.
THERE HAD BEEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE DEVELOPERS OF A HOTEL NEAR THERE POLLUTING THE BAY.
LAST WEEK, THE CALLS STOPPED.
I MADE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DEVELOPER, A MAN NAMED CROSS. I SUSPECT HE BOUGHT OFF THE TOWNSPEOPLE.
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS COULD BE ANOTHER CASE OF BIG BUSINESS PERVERTING A TOWN FULL OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.
NO, SCRATCH THAT. MAKE IT "A SLEEPY LITTLE HAMLET."
INN
NO. BETTER YET: "ONE OF THE LAST BASTIONS OF REAL AMERICA."
AHHH... YES... YOU'RE OUTDOING YOURSELF THIS TIME, LOIS.

LOCKED.
HELLO, IS ANYONE HERE?
GO AWAY! THERE'S NOBODY HOME!
WHAT!?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. I'VE GOT A RESERVATION!
ARE YA MAD, WOMAN!? YER NOT WELCOME HERE!
I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.
LOOK, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH JERRY CROSS. THAT WOULDN'T BE YOU, WOULD IT?
NO, MS. LANE. I'M RIGHT HERE.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU AT LAST.
PLEASE LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR NED. HE ISN'T EXACTLY THE WARMEST PERSON IN TOWN.

I'M WARNIN' YA. STAY AWAY FROM THAT MAN.
HE'S THE ONE WHAT BROUGHT THE EVIL HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU, NED.
HELL, NO! I AIN'T BEEN DRINKIN'!
IS HE ALWAYS THIS PLEASANT?
WELL, NED'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE STRANGE, BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN HIM THIS AGITATED.
MAYBE HE'S UPSET ABOUT YOUR COMPANY BUYING THIS TOWN'S SILENCE.
I THINK YOU'RE OVERSTATING THINGS, MS. LANE. WE HAVEN'T BOUGHT ANYONE OFF. AND AS FOR RUINING THE ENVIRONMENT...
THE INN
MY COMPANY WANTS TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF CRATER BAY. EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT IN A RESORT IS ALREADY HERE.
CLEAR WATERS, RUSTIC SETTINGS, BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE... AND THE MOST ENCHANTING MOONLIT NIGHTS.

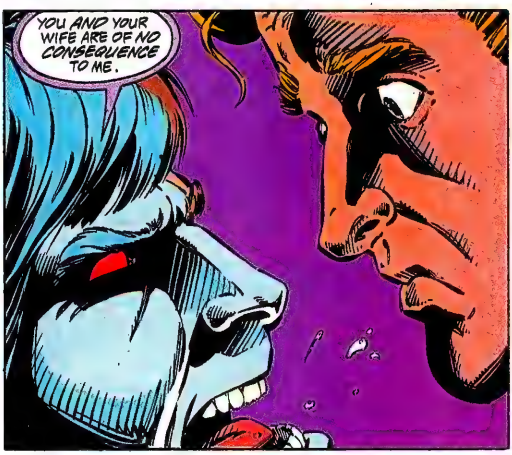
I'D BE HAPPY TO LISTEN TO YOUR SIDE OF THINGS LATER.
THE TINN
est. 1936
RIGHT NOW, I'D LIKE TO GET INTO A ROOM AND GET CLEANED UP.
OF COURSE.
NED! WOULD YOU SHOW MS. LANE TO A ROOM, PLEASE.
I'LL DO NO SUCH THING!
BUT, I...
THE WHOLE TOWN IS CURSED, YER A FOOL IF YOU STAY!
BESIDES, IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!
FIRST HE BROUGHT THE DEVELOPERS, THEN HE BROUGHT THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
THAT DOES IT, NED!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE. EITHER SHOW MS. LANE TO A ROOM OR I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
I'LL DO IT, I'LL DO IT.
FOLLOW ME, LADY.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT LITTLE SCENE, MS. LANE.
HOW ABOUT I MEET YOU IN AN HOUR. I'LL BE ABLE TO ANSWER MORE OF YOUR QUESTIONS THEN.

ARE YA COMING OR NOT!
I HAVEN'T GOT ALL NIGHT.
I HOPE THIS STORY IS WORTH ALL THIS.
COMING, COMING.
SO, NED. WHAT'S THIS CURSE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.
THE SPECTRE OF VENGEANCE LIVES IN THIS TOWN.
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'LL FIND THAT OUT SOON ENOUGH.
HERE'S YOUR ROOM. I HOPE YA LIKE IT.
UH...
OH... YEAH...
IT'S... FINE.

YER SURE YOU WANT TO STAY?
YES, I'M SURE.
I HAVE A JOB TO DO.
WELL THEN, YER GOING TO NEED SOMETHING TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE DEMONS.
HERE, TAKE THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A BLACK DIAMOND.
I CAN TELL YER NOT THE SORT THAT BELIEVES IN THIS KIND OF THING.
JUST THINK OF IT AS HUMORING AN OLD MAN.
KEEP IT CLOSE, AND IT'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.
IN THE MORNING, I'LL TELL YA EVERYTHING YA WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THESE CROOKED DEVELOPERS.

CLICK
GOOD, YOU'RE STILL HERE.
MS. LANE IS SUPPOSED TO GET A SHORT TOUR.
AFTER THAT IT'S OVER TO THE DINER FOR DINNER.
AND YOU WILL MAKE SURE SHE GETS ANGRY?
SHE WAS ANGRY WHEN SHE GOT HERE.
EXCELLENT, YOU'VE DONE WELL.
UH, WHAT ABOUT MY WIFE?
YOU SAID YOU WOULD CHANGE HER BACK IF I HELPED YOU!
SUPERMAN MAY BE HERE SOON.
I STILL HAVE PLANS FOR YOUR WIFE.

BUT YOU SAID YOU'D LET HER GO!
YOU HAVE QUITE A BACKBONE FOR A HUMAN.
IT'S A PITY YOU DON'T HAVE MORE BRAINS!!!
:GLURRG!:
I HAVE NO NEED FOR YOU ANYMORE.

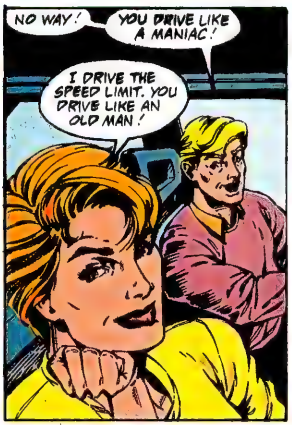

YOU AND YOUR WIFE ARE OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO ME.

SO I WOULD SUGGEST YOU CEASE YOUR WHINING OR BOTH YOU AND YOUR WIFE WILL CEASE TO EXIST.'

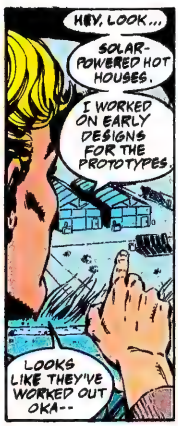
CURSE THIS SUBTERFUGE.'
I SHALL MAKE SUPERMAN PAY FOR MAKING ME STOOP TO THIS LEVEL.
UNTIL NOW USING HUMANS AS MY AGENTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO SIMPLE!

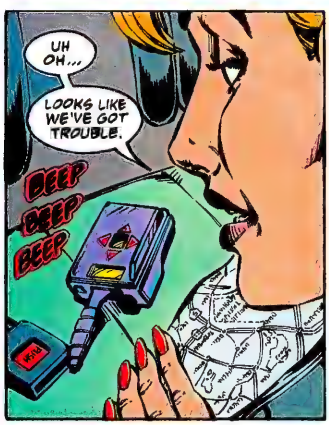
FOR YEARS I'VE BEEN USING THIS TOWN TO SPREAD MY BLACK DIAMONDS ACROSS THE EASTERN UNITED STATES.
I'VE CREATED SCORES OF BEINGS WHO WAIT FOR MY NEXT COMMAND...
...WAITING FOR ME TO USE THEM TO ADD THE MAN OF STEEL TO MY COLLECTION.
THEN, NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM PLUNGING THE EARTH INTO DARKNESS...
...AND MAKING FINAL VENGEANCE MINE.!

"WHERE'S THE MAP?"
WE DON'T NEED THE MAP, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
WE'D BE THERE ALREADY IF I WERE DRIVING.


NO WAY!
YOU DRIVE LIKE A MANIAC!
I DRIVE THE SPEED LIMIT. YOU DRIVE LIKE AN OLD MAN!

WE'RE LOST. I KNOW IT.
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
WHERE'S THE STUPID MAP!


HEY, LOOK...
SOLAR-POWERED HOT HOUSES.
I WORKED ON EARLY DESIGNS FOR THE PROTOTYPES.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE WORKED OUT OKA--


UH OH...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.
BEEP BEEP BEEP

WHAT...
BEEP BEEP BEEP

ECLIPSO!!!!
HELLO, MISTER GORDON!
KR-WHAMMM
MONA, GET THE SOLAR TRAP!
WAY AHEAD OF...
...YOU!!!!
WHOAAAA!!!
GAAAA!

DID YOU GET IT?!!!
GOT IT RIGHT...
HERE!
OH, GOD!
BRUCE! IT'S BROKEN!
GET THE REPAIR KIT... FROM THE TRUNK!
I'LL TRY...
KASLAMM
AAAAA!
GOODBYE, MONA!

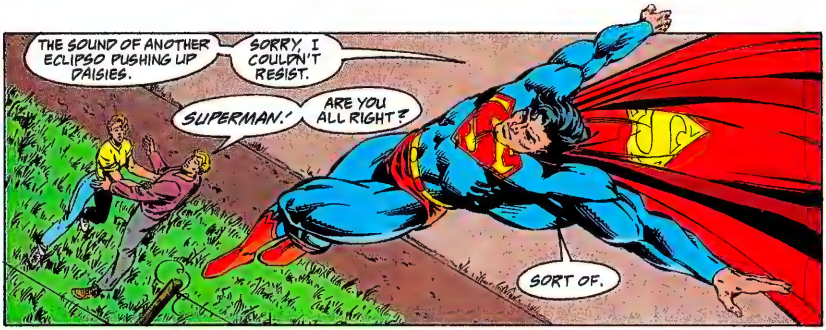
:KRAAA!:
SMACK!
CURSE YOUR INTERFERENCE, SUPERMAN!
:GNUNNG!:
WHERE'S THAT FLASHLIGHT OF YOURS?
IT'S BROKEN!
I NEED TO GET THE REPAIR KIT FROM THE CAR!
GET IT.
I'LL KEEP ECLIPSO BUSY.
GIVE IT UP, ECLIPSO!
KRAAM

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WILL GIVE UP... ALL OF YOU!
LISTEN... NOT ONLY ARE YOU A PAIN IN THE BUTT...
... BUT YOU HAVE BAD BREATH!
THIS WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE THE TIME OR PLACE FOR HUMOR, SUPERMAN!
:OOOF!:
GORDON!
MOVE IT WITH THAT FLASHLIGHT!
I NEED MORE TIME, SUPERMAN.
THERE ARE SOME SOLAR COLLECTORS UP THE ROAD THAT MIGHT BE OF SOME USE.
RIGHT!

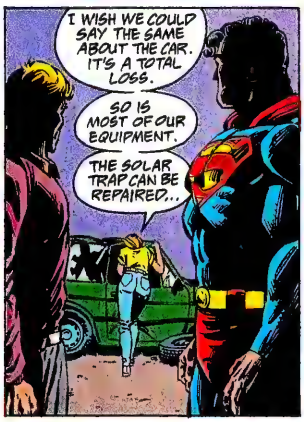
NOT ANGRY YET, EH?
LET ME SEE IF THIS WILL CHANGE THAT!
:WHOOOF:
KARASH
:UNNNH:
NOPE...
...STILL NOT ANGRY...
...JUST FED UP!
:NYAAAA!:
:NNNNUGHH!:
GET DOWN! GET DOWN!

GO!
;GAAAK;
DANGER
HIGH VOLTAGE
GARUNNNKK
I'M NOT PUTTING UP WITH THESE FREAKS ANYMORE!
THAT'S IT, ECLIPSO--
--YOU'RE DONE!
;MWARF!;
KTTZH!

AAAAAAAAA
KZZAAK
DANGER!
HIGH
AAAAAAA
AAAAAAAA

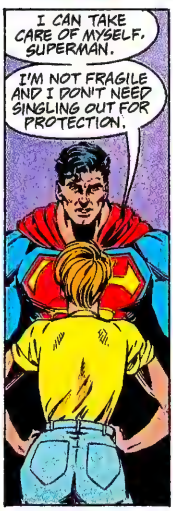

THE SOUND OF ANOTHER ECLIPSO PUSHING UP DAISIES.
SORRY, I COULDN'T RESIST.
SUPERMAN!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORT OF.

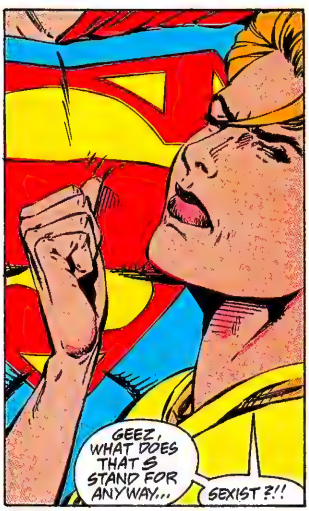
SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE. I THOUGHT THE DRIVE WOULD BE SAFE.
IT'S OK. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE CAME THROUGH IN ONE PIECE.

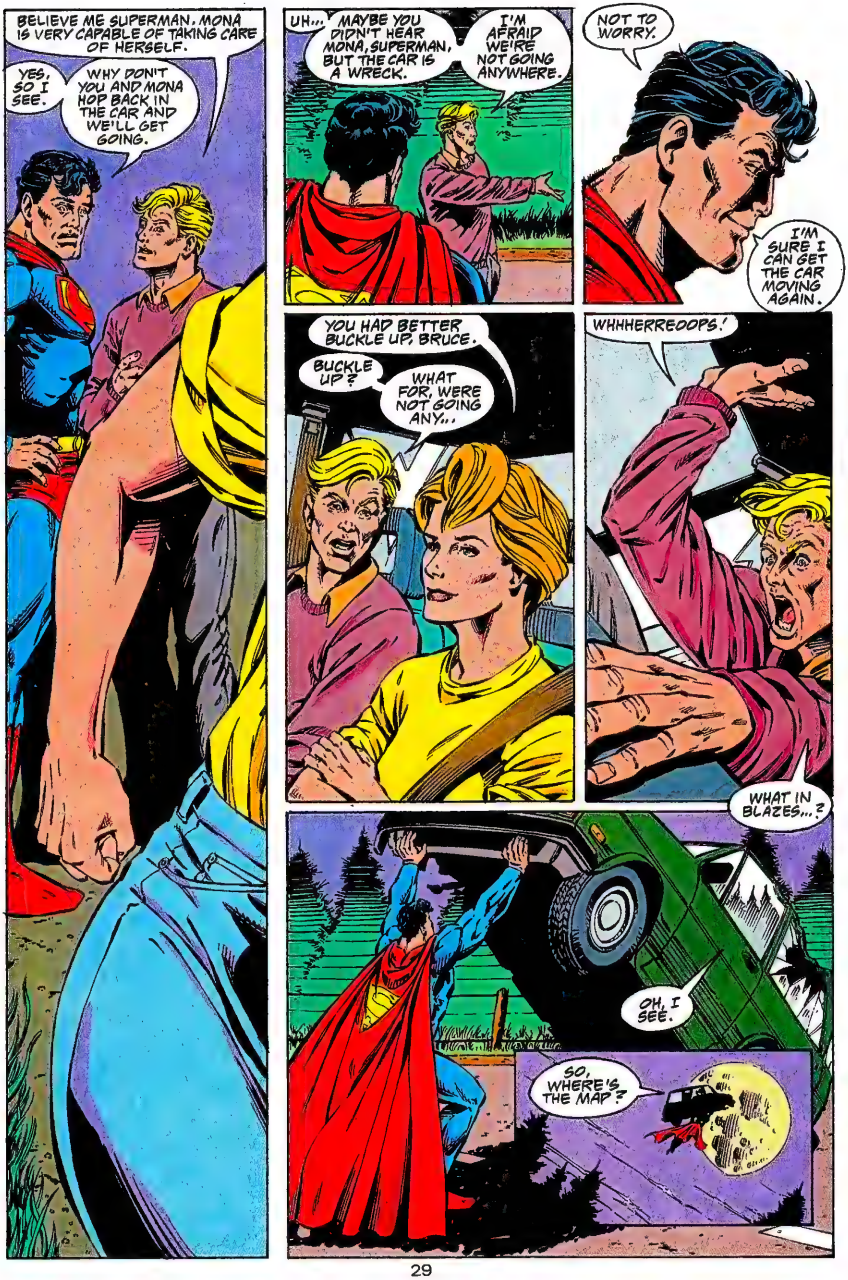

I WISH WE COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT THE CAR. IT'S A TOTAL LOSS.
SO IS MOST OF OUR EQUIPMENT.
THE SOLAR TRAP CAN BE REPAIRED...

BUT I'M AFRAID THE DETECTOR IS COMPLETELY RUINED.

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS TO ME THAT, WHATEVER ECLIPSO IS UP TO, HE WANTS ME TO COME ALONE.
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR US TO BE THERE.
WELL, I'D AT LEAST FEEL MORE AT EASE IF PERHAPS MONA STAYED BEHIND.


I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, SUPERMAN.
I'M NOT FRAGILE AND I DON'T NEED SINGLING OUT FOR PROTECTION.


GEEZ, WHAT DOES THAT S STAND FOR ANYWAY...
SEXIST?!!

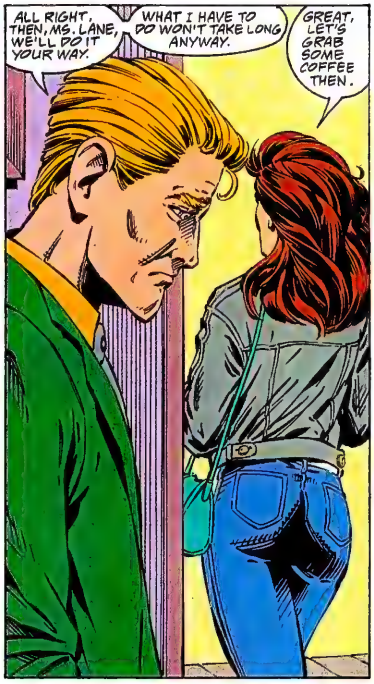

BELIEVE ME SUPERMAN, MONA IS VERY CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HERSELF.
YES, SO I SEE.
WHY DON'T YOU AND MONA HOP BACK IN THE CAR AND WE'LL GET GOING.
UH... MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR MONA, SUPERMAN, BUT THE CAR IS A WRECK.
I'M AFRAID WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
NOT TO WORRY.
I'M SURE I CAN GET THE CAR MOVING AGAIN.
YOU HAD BETTER BUCKLE UP, BRUCE.
BUCKLE UP?
WHAT FOR, WE'RE NOT GOING ANY...
WHHHERROOPS!
WHAT IN BLAZES...?
OH, I SEE.
SO, WHERE'S THE MAP?

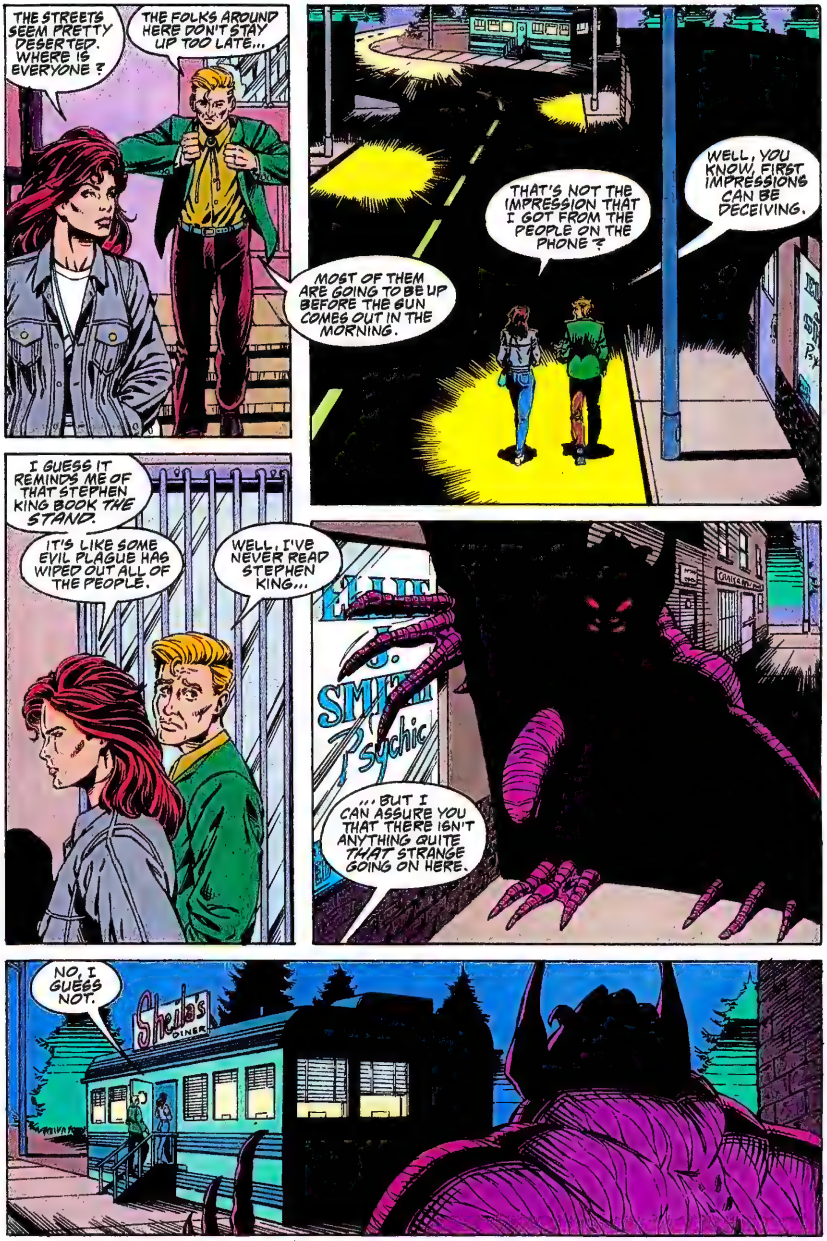
ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR TOUR MS. LANE?
JUST A MINUTE, LET ME MAKE SURE I HAVE MY RECORDER.
AH. I SEE NED HAS GIVEN YOU ONE OF HIS GOOD LUCK GEMS.
WHAT?
OH, YOU MEAN THIS?
YES. NED'S VERY SUPERSTITIOUS AND HE LOVES CHARMS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.
YOU HAD BETTER BE WEARING THAT THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE NED OR YOU'LL GET ON HIS BAD SIDE.
BAD SIDE, HUH.
IS THAT MUCH WORSE THAN THE SIDE I SAW EARLIER?
MUCH WORSE.
YOU KNOW, IT'S PRETTY LATE AND I'M EXHAUSTED.
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU I'D LIKE TO SKIP THE TOUR TONIGHT AND JUST ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS OVER COFFEE.
NO!
THAT IS... THE TOUR IS SO MUCH MORE

I MEAN, THERE ARE GOING TO BE CONTRACTORS AND WORKMEN ALL OVER THE SITE TOMORROW. I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU...
THAT'S OK.

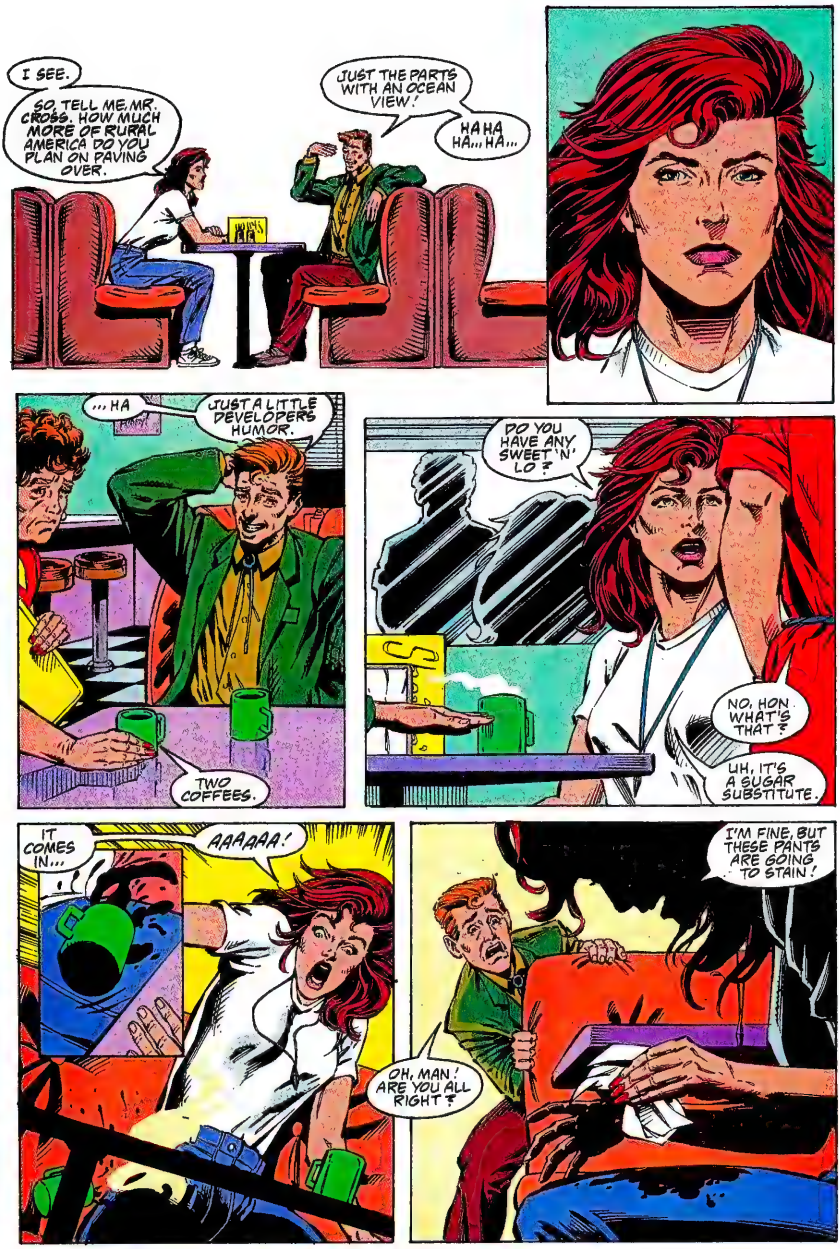
BUT...!
LOOK, MR. CROSS. I'M DOING AN INVESTIGATIVE PIECE. I'D RATHER INSPECT THE SITE ON MY OWN.

ALL I WANT TO DO IS ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS AND TURN IN EARLY.
THE BULK OF MY WORK CAN WAIT UNTIL MORNING.

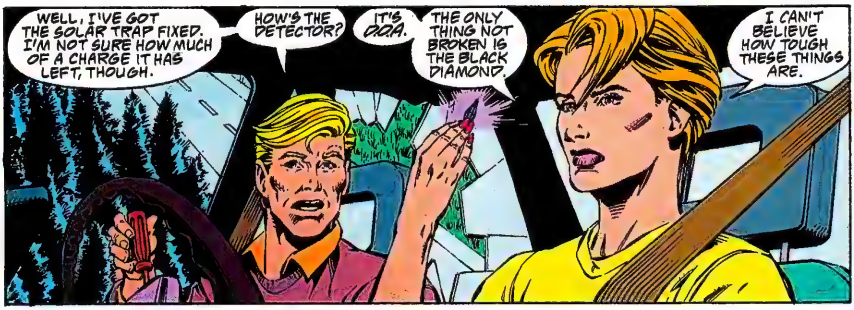

ALL RIGHT, THEN, MS. LANE, WE'LL DO IT YOUR WAY.
WHAT I HAVE TO DO WON'T TAKE LONG ANYWAY.
GREAT, LET'S GRAB SOME COFFEE THEN.


THE STREETS SEEM PRETTY DESERTED. WHERE IS EVERYONE?
THE FOLKS AROUND HERE DON'T STAY UP TOO LATE...
MOST OF THEM ARE GOING TO BE UP BEFORE THE SUN COMES OUT IN THE MORNING.
THAT'S NOT THE IMPRESSION THAT I GOT FROM THE PEOPLE ON THE PHONE?
WELL, YOU KNOW, FIRST IMPRESSIONS CAN BE DECEIVING.
I GUESS IT REMINDS ME OF THAT STEPHEN KING BOOK THE STAND.
IT'S LIKE SOME EVIL PLAGUE HAS WIPED OUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE.
WELL, I'VE NEVER READ STEPHEN KING...
Psychic
...BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE ISN'T ANYTHING QUITE THAT STRANGE GOING ON HERE.
NO, I GUESS NOT.
Sheila's DINER

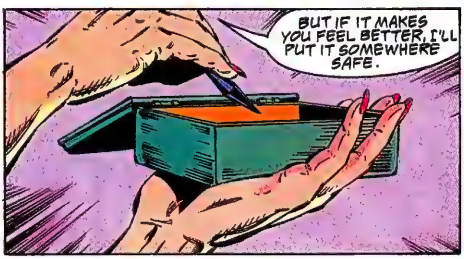
BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT WE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING A TABLE.
THIS PLACE IS COOL.
I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY DINERS LIKE THIS IN METROPOLIS.
AT LEAST NOT AUTHENTIC ONES.
WAIT 'TIL YOU TRY SHEILA'S COFFEE. IT'S THE BEST ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD.
WHERE IS SHE, ANYWAY?
SHEILA!!!
COFFEE GOD
;SNIFF; HEY, NED, HOW YA BE. WHO'S YER FRIEND?
SHEILA, THIS IS LOIS LANE. SHE'S A REPORTER FROM METROPOLIS.
I'VE BEEN BRAGGING TO HER ABOUT YOUR COFFEE. HOW ABOUT BRINGING US A COUPLE OF CUPS.
CREAM AND--;SNIFF;-SUGAR?
UH, PLEASE.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, ;SNIFF;
WHAT'S BOTHERING HER?
SHEILA'S HUSBAND PASSED AWAY RECENTLY.
IT WAS VERY... SUDDEN.


I SEE.
SO, TELL ME, MR. CROSS. HOW MUCH MORE OF RURAL AMERICA DO YOU PLAN ON PAVING OVER.
JUST THE PARTS WITH AN OCEAN VIEW!
HA HA HA... HA...
...HA
JUST A LITTLE DEVELOPERS HUMOR.
TWO COFFEES.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SWEET 'N' LO?
NO, HON WHAT'S THAT?
UH, IT'S A SUGAR SUBSTITUTE.
IT COMES IN...
AAAAAA!
OH, MAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE, BUT THESE PANTS ARE GOING TO STAIN!

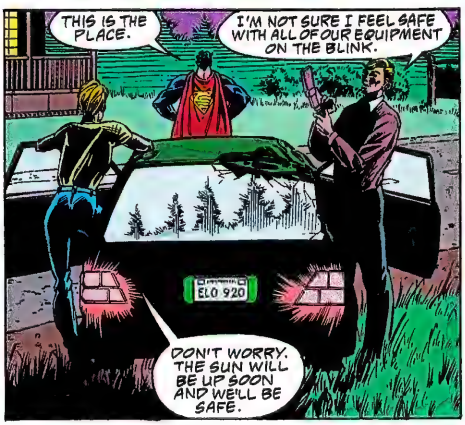
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT.
NO, THAT'S OK, I...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE CROSS!
I CAN CLEAN UP THIS MESS WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
I... I... I'M SORRY.
UH, YOU AREN'T MAD, ARE YOU?
NO.
BUT IF MY FIANCÉ WERE HERE HE WOULDN'T HAVE APPRECIATED THAT YOU--
HE... HERE'S YER SWEET 'N' LOW, HON.
UH... OH...
THIS IS POWDERED SUGAR.
ACTUALLY WHAT I COULD REALLY USE IS SOME ASPIRIN.
UH, HOW ABOUT TRYING SOME OF SHEILA'S GREAT CHOCOLATE CHEESE CAKE?!
Sheil

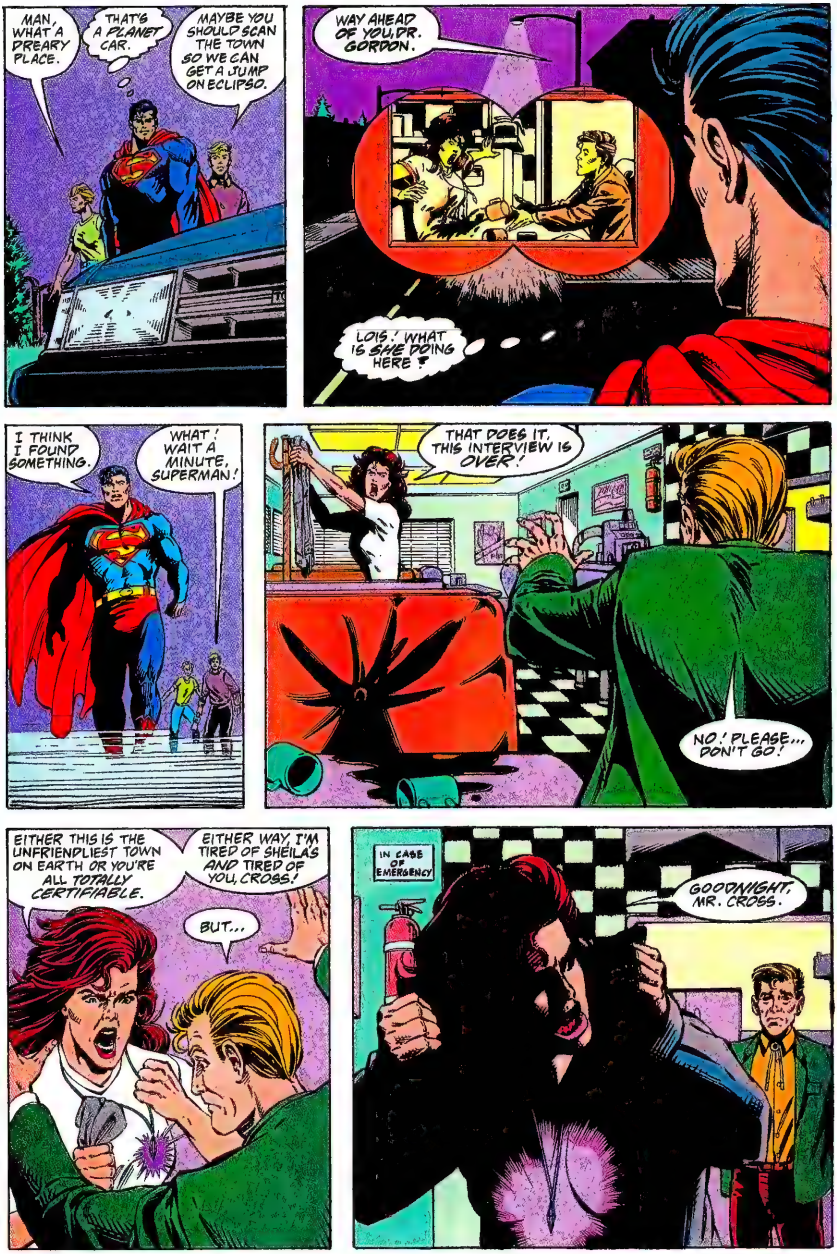

WELL, I'VE GOT THE SOLAR TRAP FIXED. I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH OF A CHARGE IT HAS LEFT, THOUGH.
HOW'S THE DETECTOR?
IT'S OOA.
THE ONLY THING NOT BROKEN IS THE BLACK DIAMOND.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW TOUGH THESE THINGS ARE.

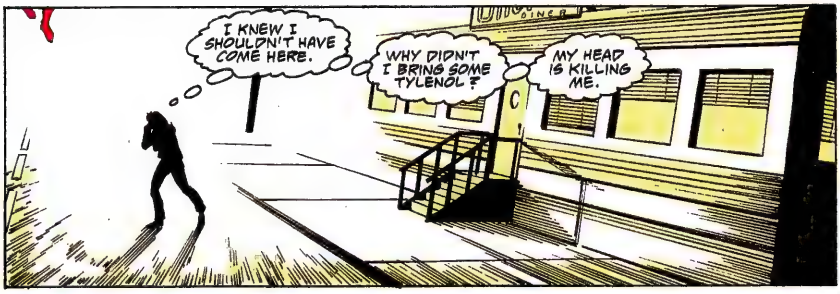
BE CAREFUL, MONA!
IF YOU GET MAD WHILE YOU'RE HOLDING THAT THING YOU'LL GO ECLIPSO ON ME.
RELAX. RELAX.
YOU KNOW I KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.


BUT IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, I'LL PUT IT SOMEWHERE SAFE.

WHOA!
WE'RE FALLING.
WE'RE LANDING.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HERE.

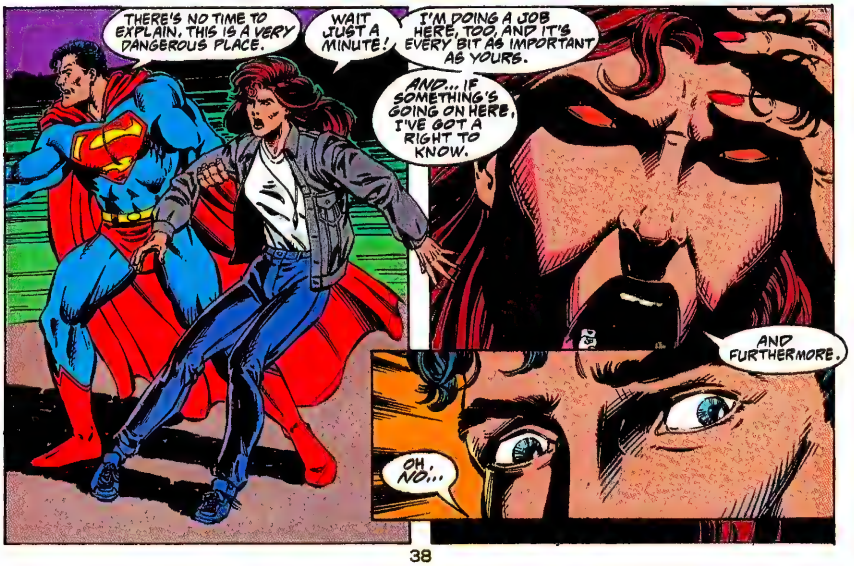

THIS IS THE PLACE.
I'M NOT SURE I FEEL SAFE WITH ALL OF OUR EQUIPMENT ON THE BLINK.
ELO 920
DON'T WORRY. THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON AND WE'LL BE SAFE.


MAN, WHAT A DREARY PLACE.
THAT'S A PLANET CAR.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SCAN THE TOWN SO WE CAN GET A JUMP ON ECLIPSO.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, DR. GORDON.
LOIS! WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING.
WHAT! WAIT A MINUTE, SUPERMAN!
THAT DOES IT. THIS INTERVIEW IS OVER!
NO! PLEASE... DON'T GO!
EITHER THIS IS THE UNFRIENDLIEST TOWN ON EARTH OR YOU'RE ALL TOTALLY CERTIFIABLE.
EITHER WAY, I'M TIRED OF SHEILA'S AND TIRED OF YOU, CROSS!
BUT...
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
GOODNIGHT, MR. CROSS.


I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.
WHY DIDN'T I BRING SOME TYLENOL?
MY HEAD IS KILLING ME.

LOIS?!
OH...
SUPERMAN!

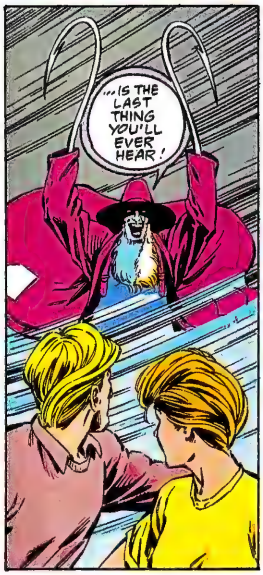
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HERE--
ME NEITHER... I'M WORKING ON THE STORY FROM HELL.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT... YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
WHAT! WHY?

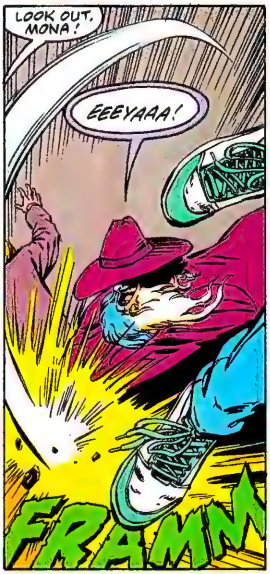

THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS PLACE.
WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
I'M DOING A JOB HERE, TOO, AND IT'S EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT AS YOURS.
AND... IF SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE, I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO KNOW.
AND FURTHERMORE.
OH, NO...

...I DON'T LIKE BEING...
LOIS, NO!
GOOD HEAVENS!
...CONDESCENDED TO!
SURPRISE, SUPERMAN!
:GARRG!:

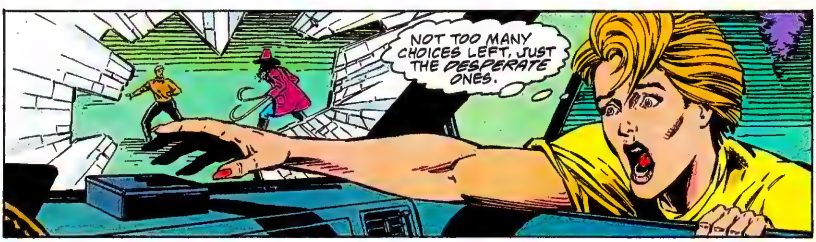
KER-SSH!

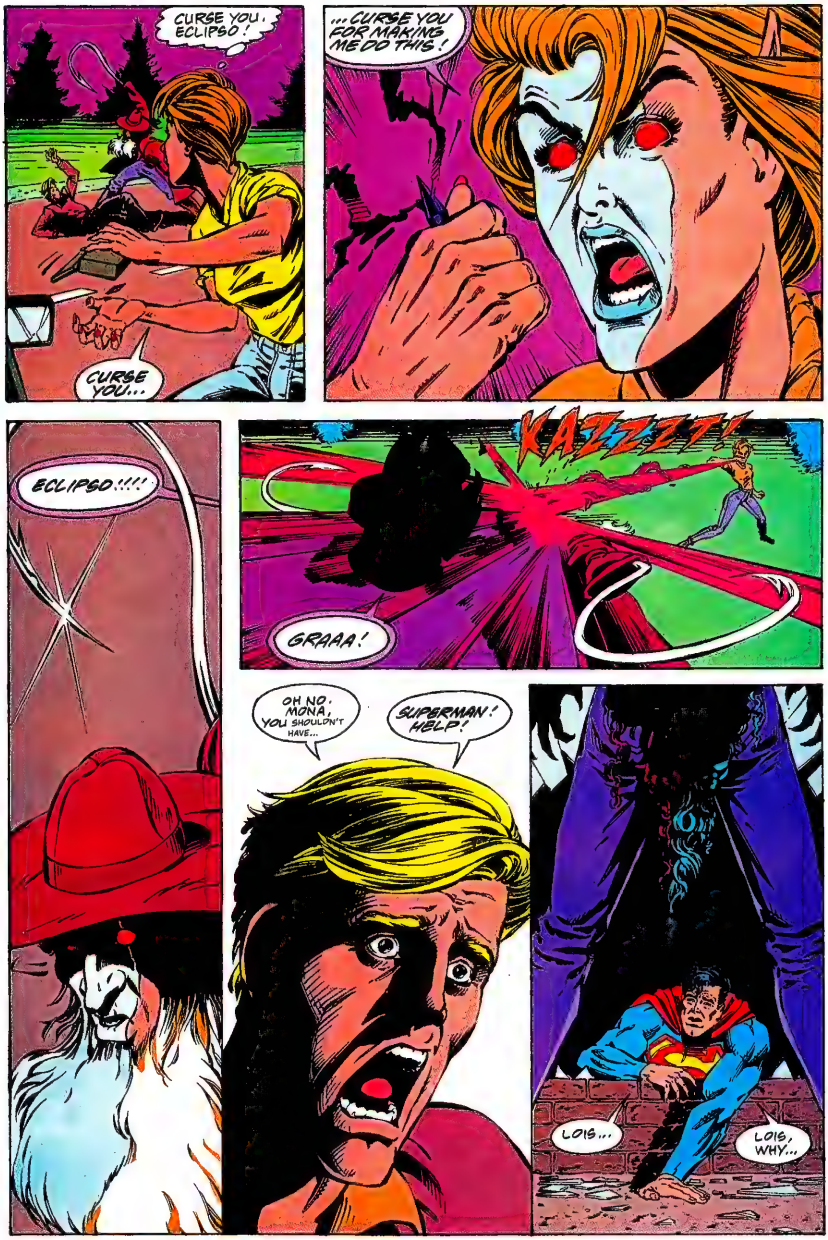
WHAT WAS THAT!?
THAT, DR. GORDON...


...IS THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER HEAR!


LOOK OUT, MONA!
EEEYAAA!
FRAMM

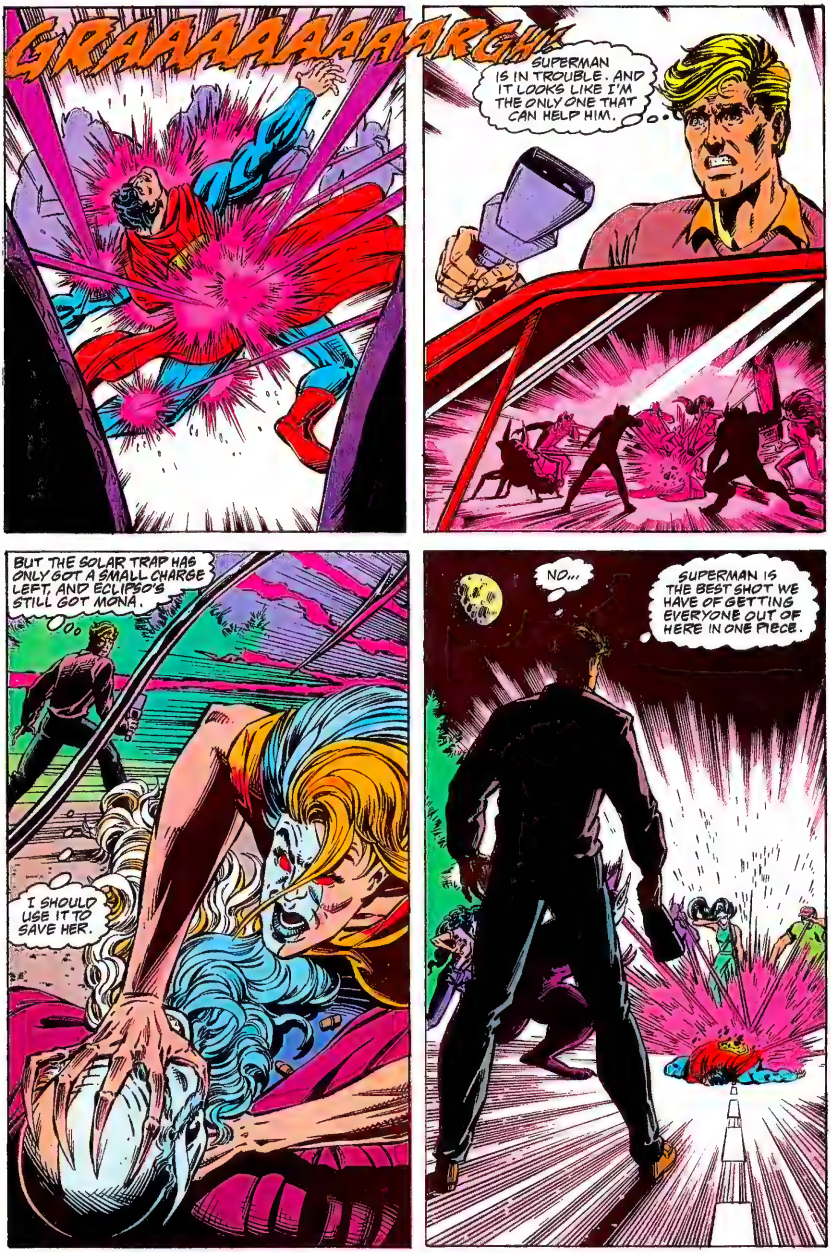
RUN, MONA. GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN.
NO! I CAN'T GET TO THE SOLAR TRAP.


NOT TOO MANY CHOICES LEFT. JUST THE DESPERATE ONES.

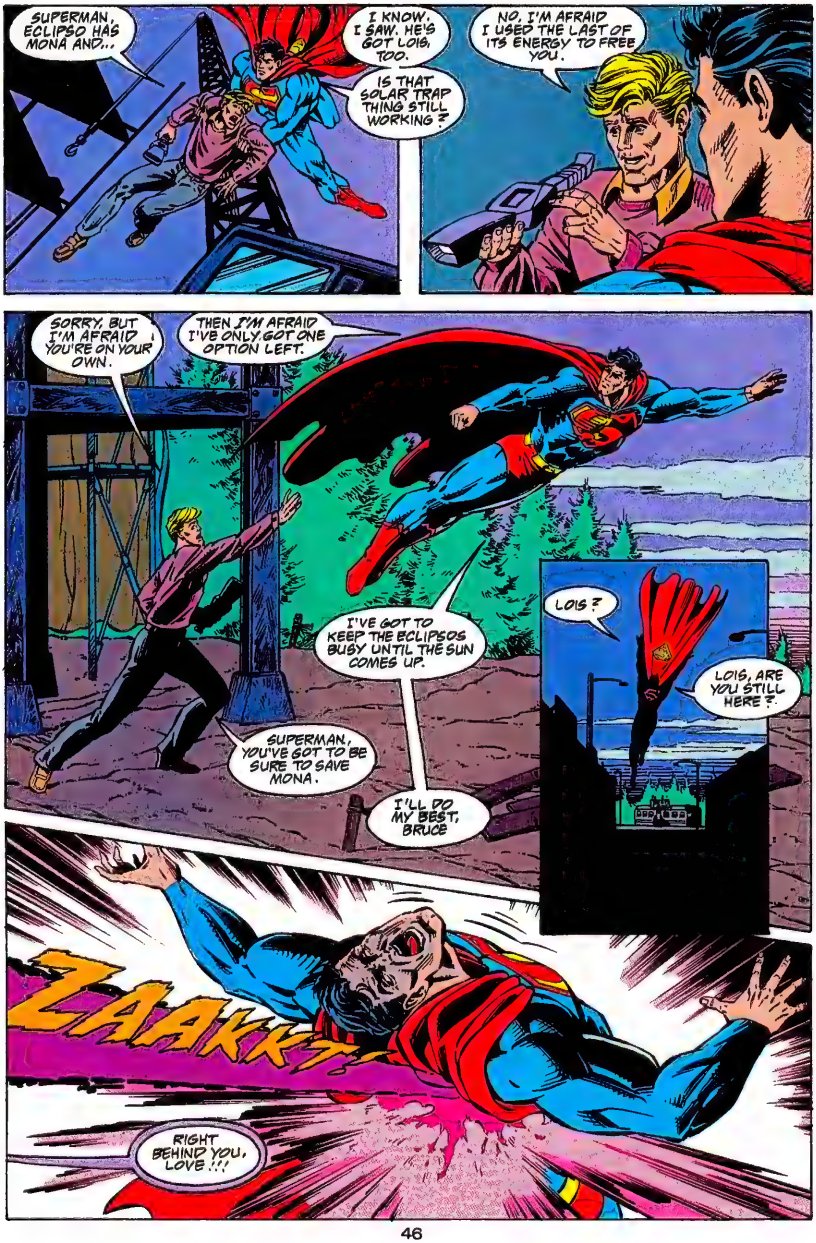

CURSE YOU, ECLIPSO!
CURSE YOU...
...CURSE YOU FOR MAKING ME DO THIS!
ECLIPSO!!!!
KAZZZT!
GRAAA!
OH NO, MONA, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...
SUPERMAN! HELP!
LOIS...
LOIS, WHY...

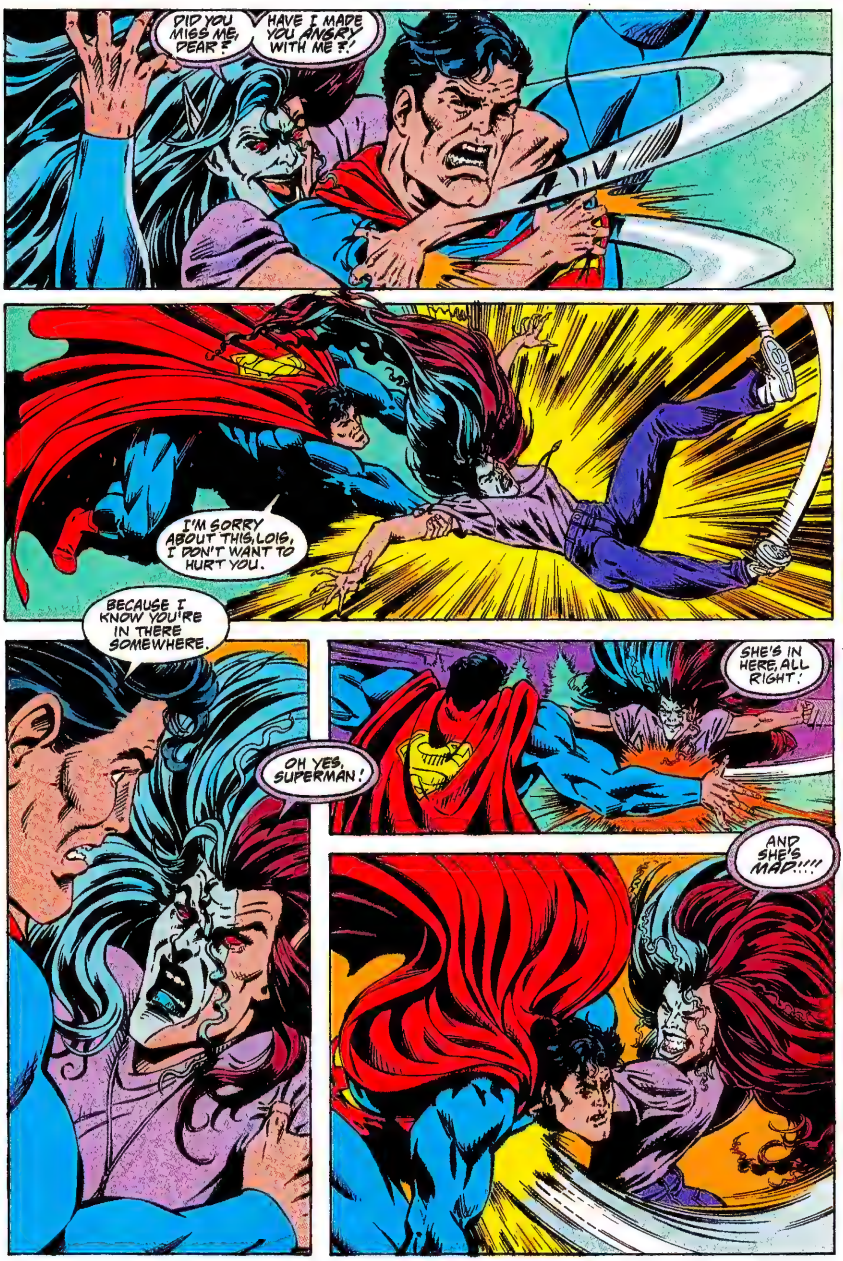
WHY, SUPERMAN?
WHY DO YOU THINK!?
SKASH
YOU SHOULD REALLY CHOOSE YOUR WORDS MORE CAREFULLY, SUPERMAN!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUPERMAN. THINGS NOT GOING WELL FOR YOU?
WAK!
WELL, THEY'RE GOING TO GET WORSE.
KROOOOM!
OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS HAVE ALL BEEN ONE ON ONE, BUT THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT.
AND TOGETHER WE'VE HAD TIME TO PLAN...
YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN IN THIS TOWN FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND I'VE HAD TIME TO... MAKE A FEW FRIENDS.

...A LITTLE PARTY FOR YOU!!!

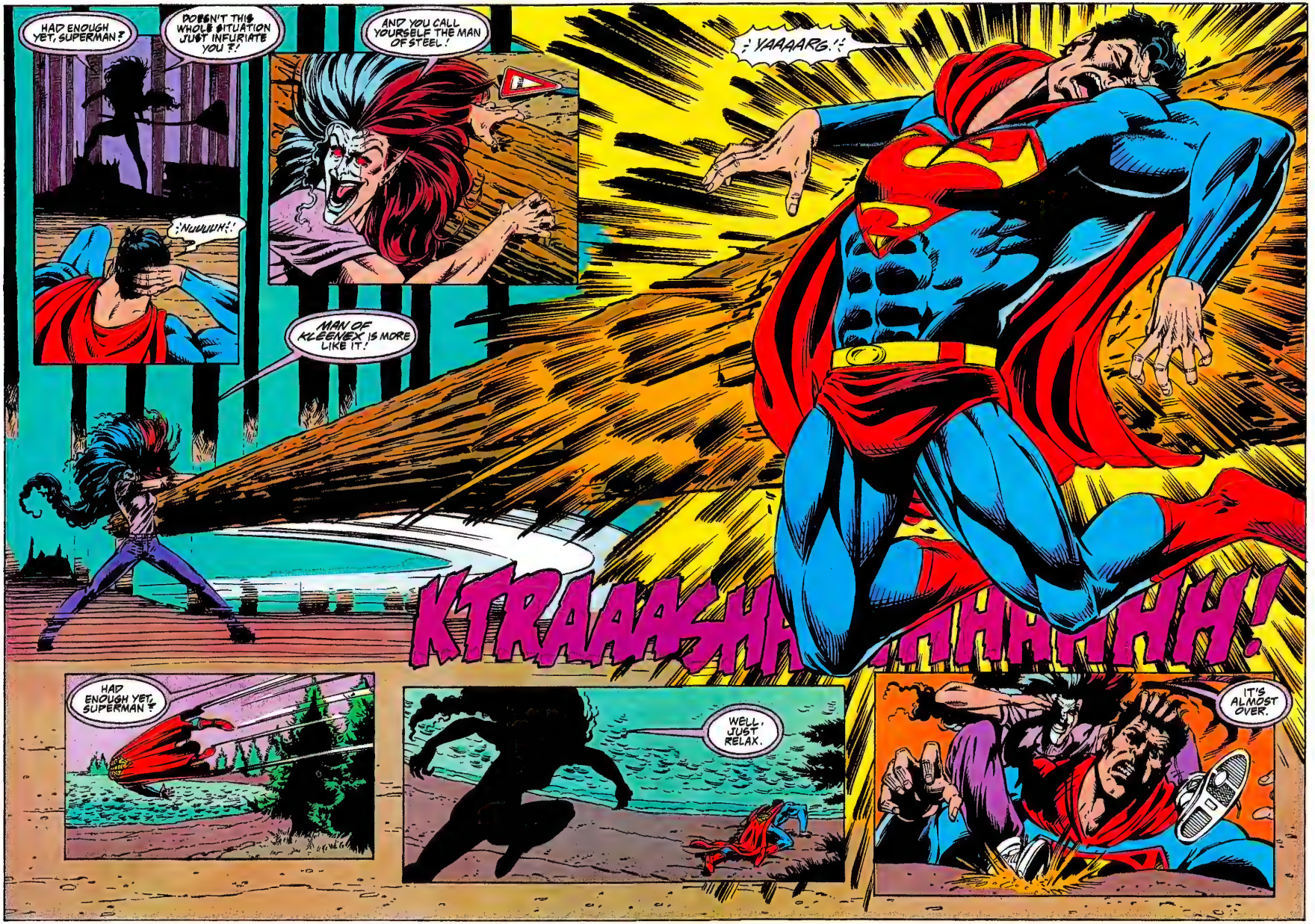

GRAAAAAAAAARGH!
SUPERMAN IS IN TROUBLE. AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HELP HIM.
BUT THE SOLAR TRAP HAS ONLY GOT A SMALL CHARGE LEFT, AND ECLIPSO'S STILL GOT MONA.
I SHOULD USE IT TO SAVE HER.
NO...
SUPERMAN IS THE BEST SHOT WE HAVE OF GETTING EVERYONE OUT OF HERE IN ONE PIECE.

SO I SUPPOSE, HERE GOES NOTHING...!!!
UH OH
LOOKS LIKE I MISSED SOME.
NO PROBLEM, BRUCE, YOU DISTRACTED THEM FOR ME.
AND THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED.
NOW LETS BOTH GET OUT OF HERE!!!


SUPERMAN, ECLIPSO HAS MONA AND...
I KNOW. I SAW. HE'S GOT LOIS, TOO.
IS THAT SOLAR TRAP THING STILL WORKING?
NO, I'M AFRAID I USED THE LAST OF ITS ENERGY TO FREE YOU.
SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
THEN I'M AFRAID I'VE ONLY GOT ONE OPTION LEFT.
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THE ECLIPSOS BUSY UNTIL THE SUN COMES UP.
SUPERMAN, YOU'VE GOT TO BE SURE TO SAVE MONA.
I'LL DO MY BEST, BRUCE
LOIS?
LOIS, ARE YOU STILL HERE?
ZAAK!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, LOVE!!!

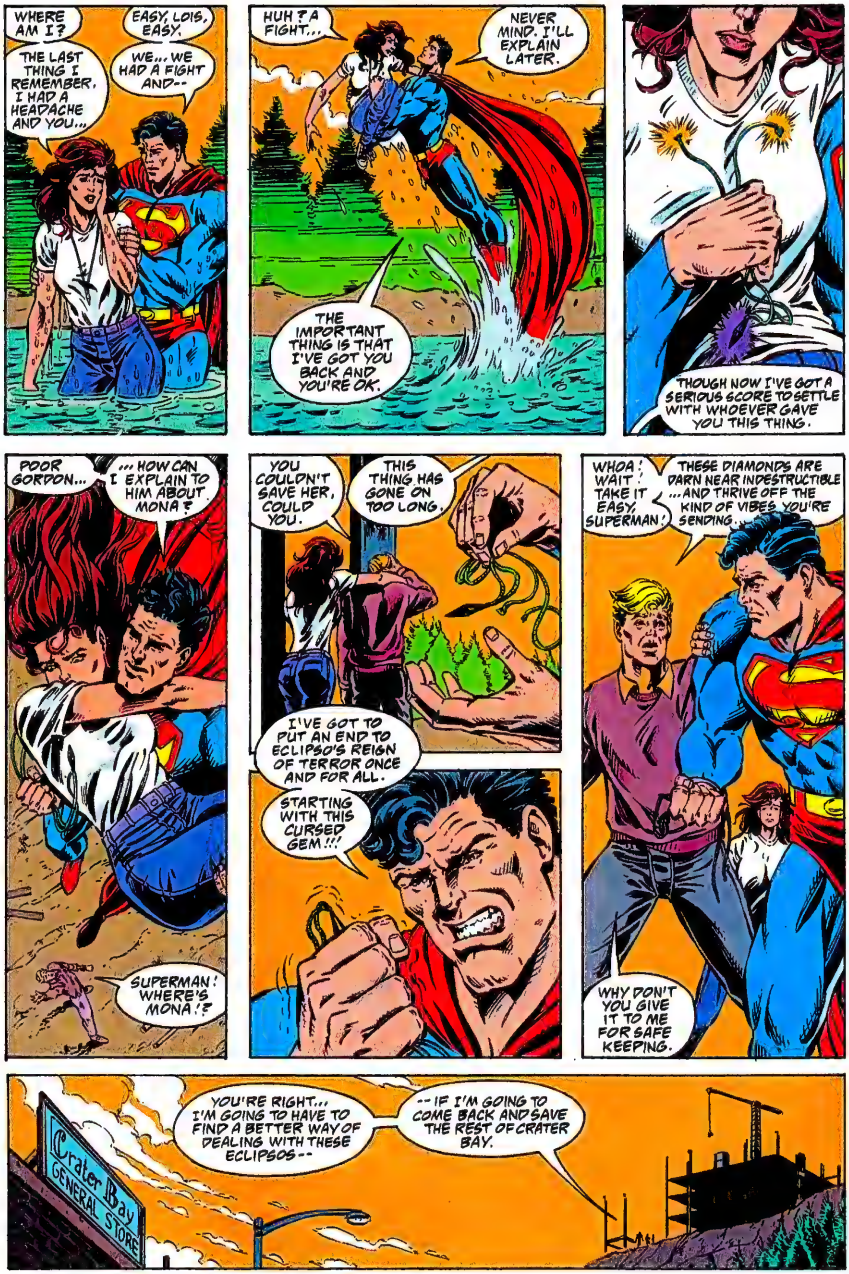

DID YOU MISS ME, DEAR?
HAVE I MADE YOU ANGRY WITH ME?!
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, LOIS, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
OH YES, SUPERMAN!
SHE'S IN HERE, ALL RIGHT!
AND SHE'S MAD!!!!

SHE'S MAD AT THE LAST THREE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS!
SHE'S MAD THAT MORE ISN'T BEING DONE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!
SHE'S MAD BECAUSE SHE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR A STORY THAT DIDN'T EXIST!
BUT MOST OF ALL, SUPERMAN...
YIELD
SHE'S MAD AT YOU!!!
YIELD


HAD ENOUGH YET, SUPERMAN?
DOESN'T THIS WHOLE SITUATION JUST INFURIATE YOU?!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF THE MAN OF STEEL!
:YAAAARG!:
:NUUUUH!:
MAN OF KLEENEX IS MORE LIKE IT.
KTRAAASHHHHHHHH!
HAD ENOUGH YET, SUPERMAN?
WELL, JUST RELAX.
IT'S ALMOST OVER.

NOT JUST YET, ECLIPSO!
EEYAAAA
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT, SUPERMAN!
I WAS JUST GOING TO TRY TO POSSESS YOU...
BUT NOW, I THINK I'D GET MORE SATISFACTION OUT OF KILLING YOU!
SAY GOODBYE, SUPERMAN.
GOODBYE, ECLIPSO!
THE SUN IS RISING.
QUICKLY, EVERYONE. GET BACK INDOORS!
THAT ONE BACK THERE WILL JUST HAVE TO DO ITS BEST ON ITS OWN!

OH NO, THE SUN!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID!
I MUST HIDE!
NOT SO FAST, ECLIPSO.
NEEEOOOO!!
I LET YOU SLAP ME AROUND BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF HURTING LOIS.
BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU OFF THE HOOK THAT EASILY, ECLIPSO!
I'LL KILL YOU, SUPERMAN!
I'LL KILL YOU!
I...I...I...
UH, OH...
OHHH, MY HEAD.


WHERE AM I?
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER, I HAD A HEADACHE AND YOU...
EASY, LOIS, EASY.
WE... WE HAD A FIGHT AND--
HUH? A FIGHT...
NEVER MIND. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT I'VE GOT YOU BACK AND YOU'RE OK.
THOUGH NOW I'VE GOT A SERIOUS SCORE TO SETTLE WITH WHOEVER GAVE YOU THIS THING.
POOR GORDON...
... HOW CAN I EXPLAIN TO HIM ABOUT MONA?
SUPERMAN! WHERE'S MONA!?
YOU COULDN'T SAVE HER, COULD YOU.
THIS THING HAS GONE ON TOO LONG.
I'VE GOT TO PUT AN END TO ECLIPSO'S REIGN OF TERROR ONCE AND FOR ALL.
STARTING WITH THIS CURSED GEM!!!
WHOA! WAIT! TAKE IT EASY, SUPERMAN!
THESE DIAMONDS ARE DARN NEAR INDESTRUCTIBLE ... AND THRIVE OFF THE KIND OF VIBES YOU'RE SENDING...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT TO ME FOR SAFE KEEPING.
Crater Bay GENERAL STORE
YOU'RE RIGHT... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIND A BETTER WAY OF DEALING WITH THESE ECLIPSOS--
-- IF I'M GOING TO COME BACK AND SAVE THE REST OF CRATER BAY.

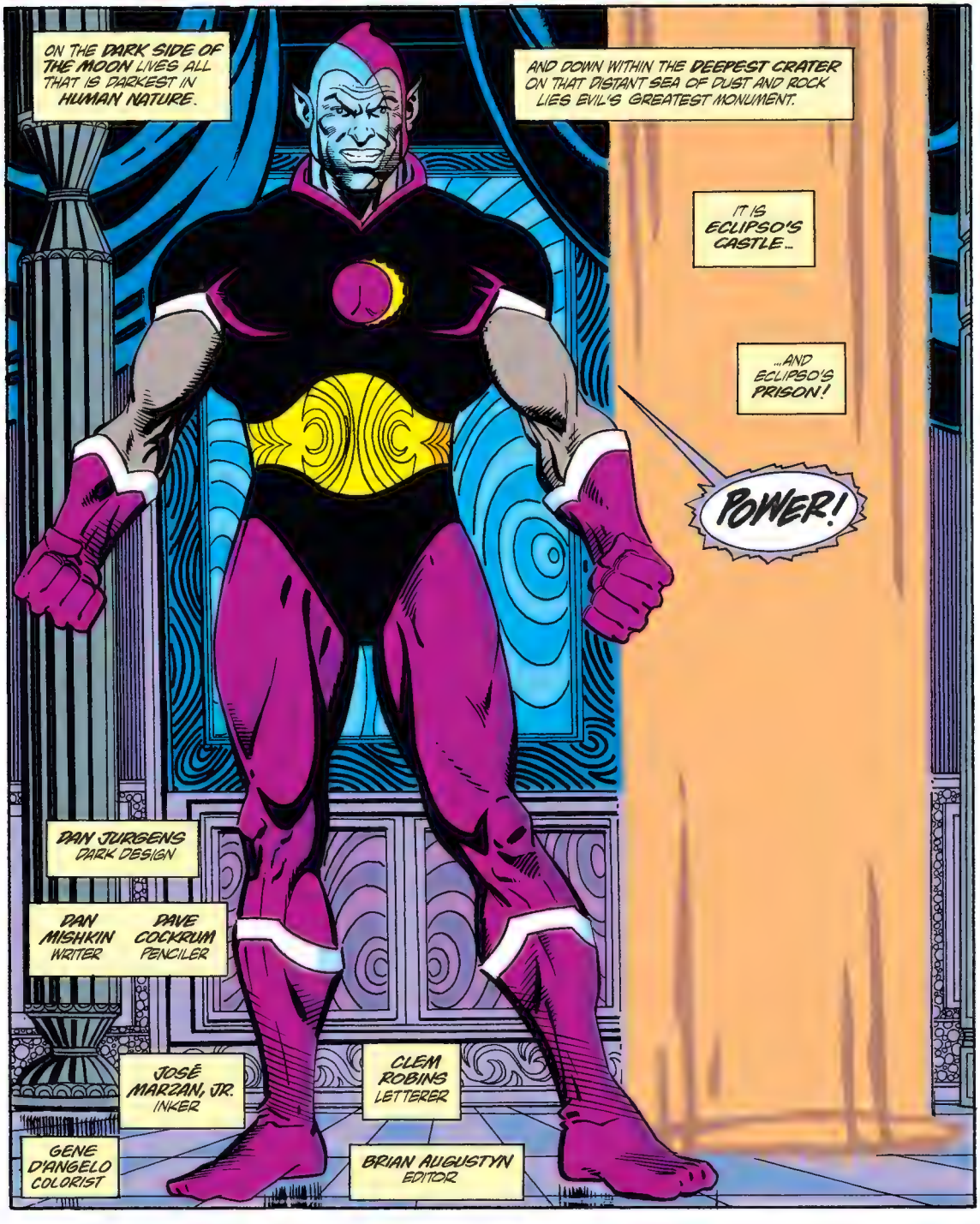
WAIT A MINUTE. YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
YOU BARELY BEAT ONE OF THOSE THINGS, HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO SURVIVE DEALING WITH AN ENTIRE TOWN FULL OF DEMONS?
GOING BACK WOULD BE SUICIDE--AND MURDER!
NO, LOIS.

MAYBE RUSHING OUT HERE BY MYSELF THINKING I COULD HANDLE THIS ALONE WAS FOOLISH--
--BUT COMING OUT HERE WAS NOT THE WRONG THING TO DO.

I NEED A BETTER PLAN AND SOME STRONG HELP.
THE ONLY THING THAT I KNOW FOR SURE IS...

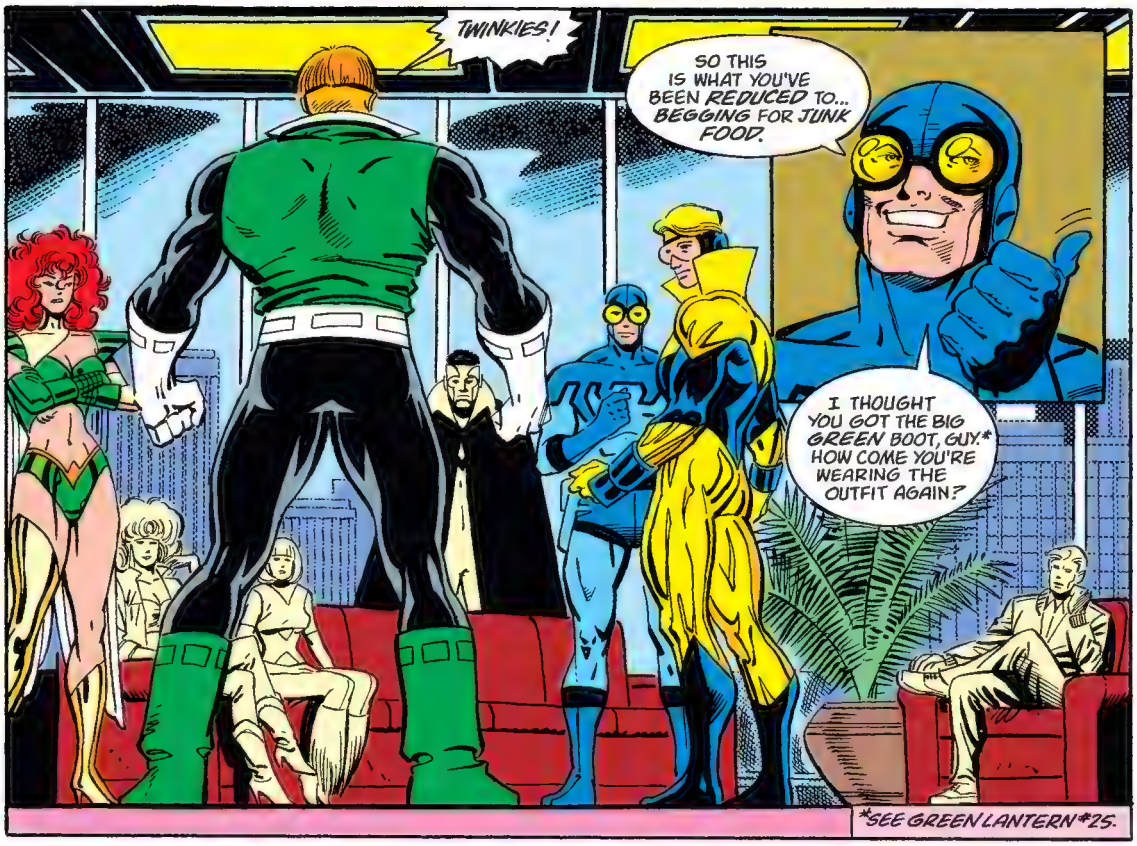
...I HAVE TO GO BACK AND SAVE THOSE PEOPLE.
CONTINUED IN ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #4 ON SALE IN 3 WEEKS! (BUT DON'T MISS ECLIPSO'S NEXT ATTACK IN JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL #6... NEXT WEEK!)

MAXIMUM ECLIPSE

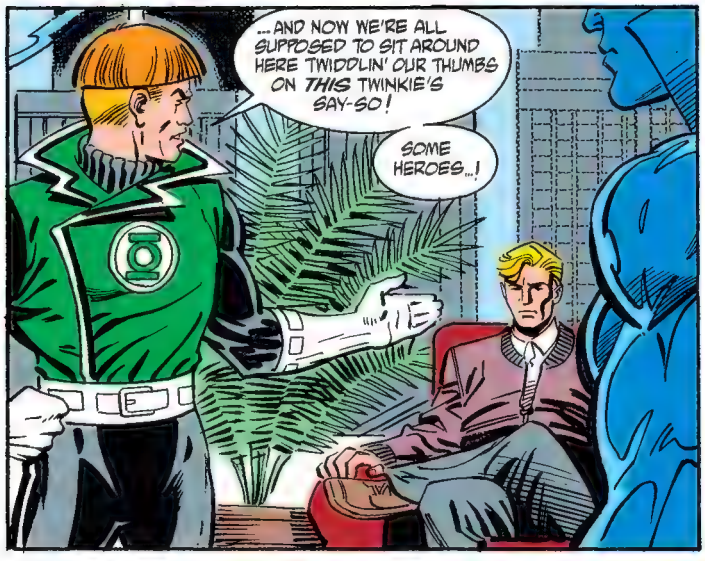

ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON LIVES ALL THAT IS DARKEST IN HUMAN NATURE.
AND DOWN WITHIN THE DEEPEST CRATER ON THAT DISTANT SEA OF DUST AND ROCK LIES EVIL'S GREATEST MONUMENT.
IT IS ECLIPSO'S CASTLE..
...AND ECLIPSO'S PRISON!
POWER!
DAN JURGENS DARK DESIGN
DAN MISHKIN WRITER
DAVE COCKRUM PENCILER
JOSÉ MARZAN, JR. INKER
CLEM ROBINS LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST
BRIAN AUGUSTYN EDITOR

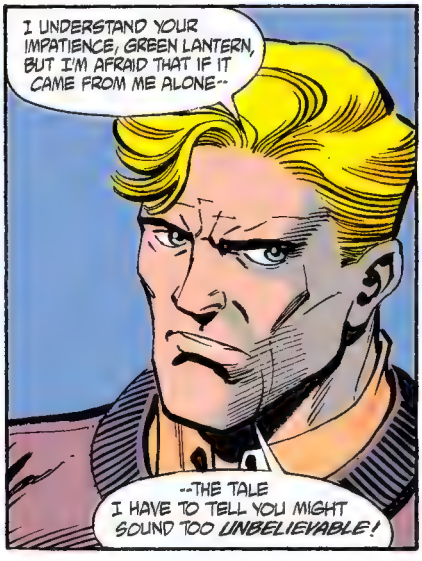
WHAT HUMAN CAN IMAGINE THE POWER THAT WAS ONCE MINE?
WHICH AMONG THEM CAN CONCEIVE OF SUCH VAST, IMMEASURABLE MIGHT?
AND WHO WOULD DARE TO?
THEY PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THEIR ENLIGHTENED WAYS--THEIR SCIENCE AND THEIR GLEAMING CITIES.
BUT THE ANCIENT FEARS RESIDE WITHIN THEM STILL.
...AND AN ANCIENT POWER STALKS THEM!
THOSE WHO BANISHED ME HERE BELIEVED THEY COULD CUT OFF MY POWER FOR ETERNITY.
BUT THEY WERE WRONG...
THAT POWER SHALL BE MINE AGAIN!
AND IT'S THE POWER OF EARTH'S SUPERHEROES--THE HEROES WHOSE PATHS I AVOIDED FOR SO LONG...
...IT IS THEIR POWER THAT WILL AT LAST RETURN ME TO MY RIGHTFUL RULE!

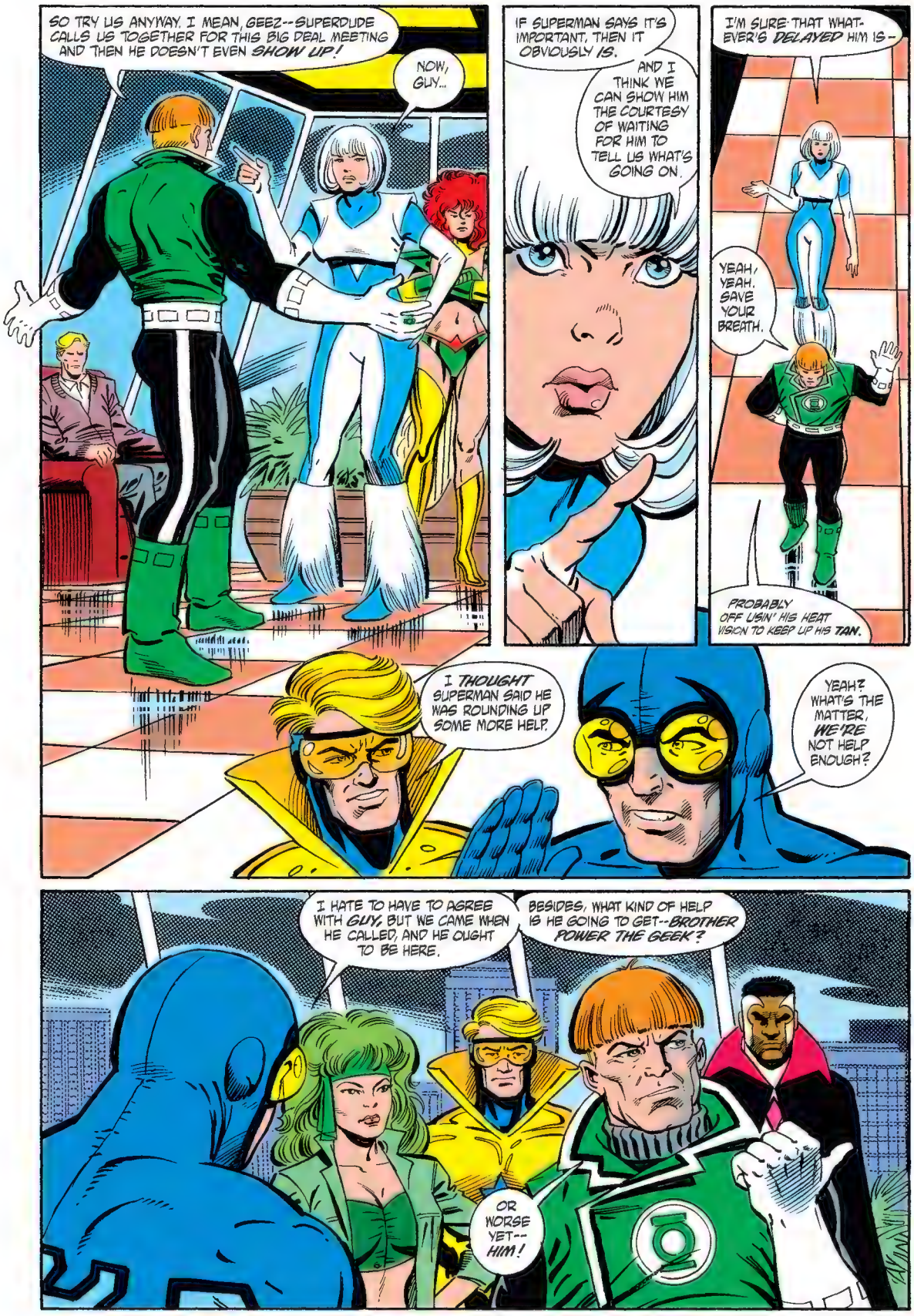
I HAVE THEM NOW, ALTHOUGH THEY BARELY REALIZE IT.
THE HANDFUL OF HEROES WHOSE BODIES I ALREADY POSSESS ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING...
...THE FIRST OF THOSE WHO WILL FALL BEFORE ME, ONE BY ONE.
NO DOUBT THEY WILL SOON REACT... BUT IT WILL BE TOO LATE.
MY SCHEME IS IN MOTION AND THEY CANNOT HOPE TO STOP IT.
BUT WHAT I REQUIRE NOW GOES BEYOND RAW PHYSICAL POWER. I MUST HAVE OTHER ABILITIES TO TAKE ME TO THE NEXT STAGE.
AND THE TELEPATHIC POWERS OF THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER WILL SUIT MY NEEDS IDEALLY.
SO I'LL TAKE THE MARTIAN--AND THROUGH HIM GAIN ALL THOSE FOOLS WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...
...AND ALL THEIR POWER!

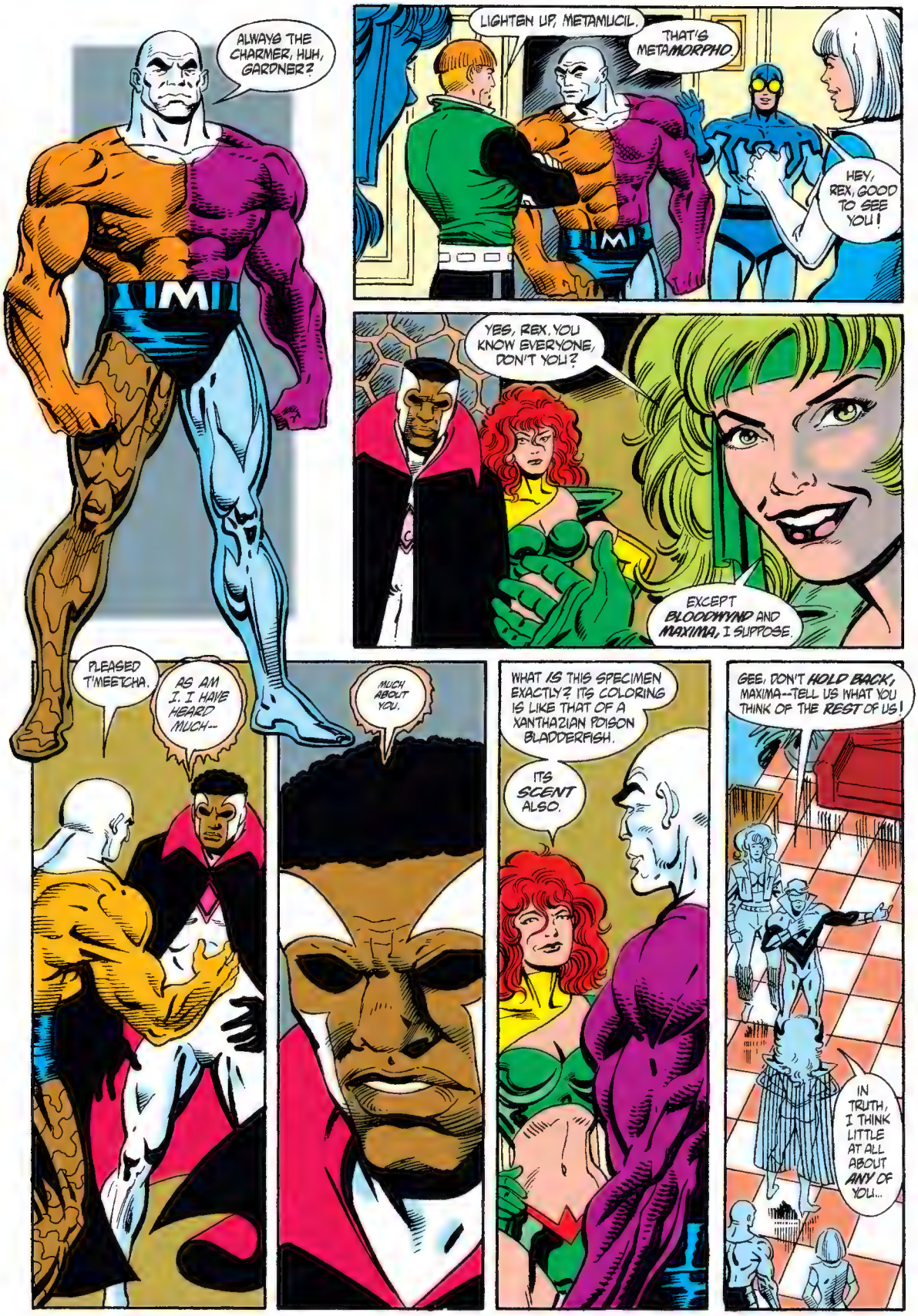

TWINKIES!
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN *REDUCED* TO... *BEGGING* FOR *JUNK FOOD.*
I THOUGHT YOU GOT THE BIG *GREEN* BOOT, GUY.* HOW COME YOU'RE WEARING THE OUTFIT AGAIN?
*SEE GREEN LANTERN #25.

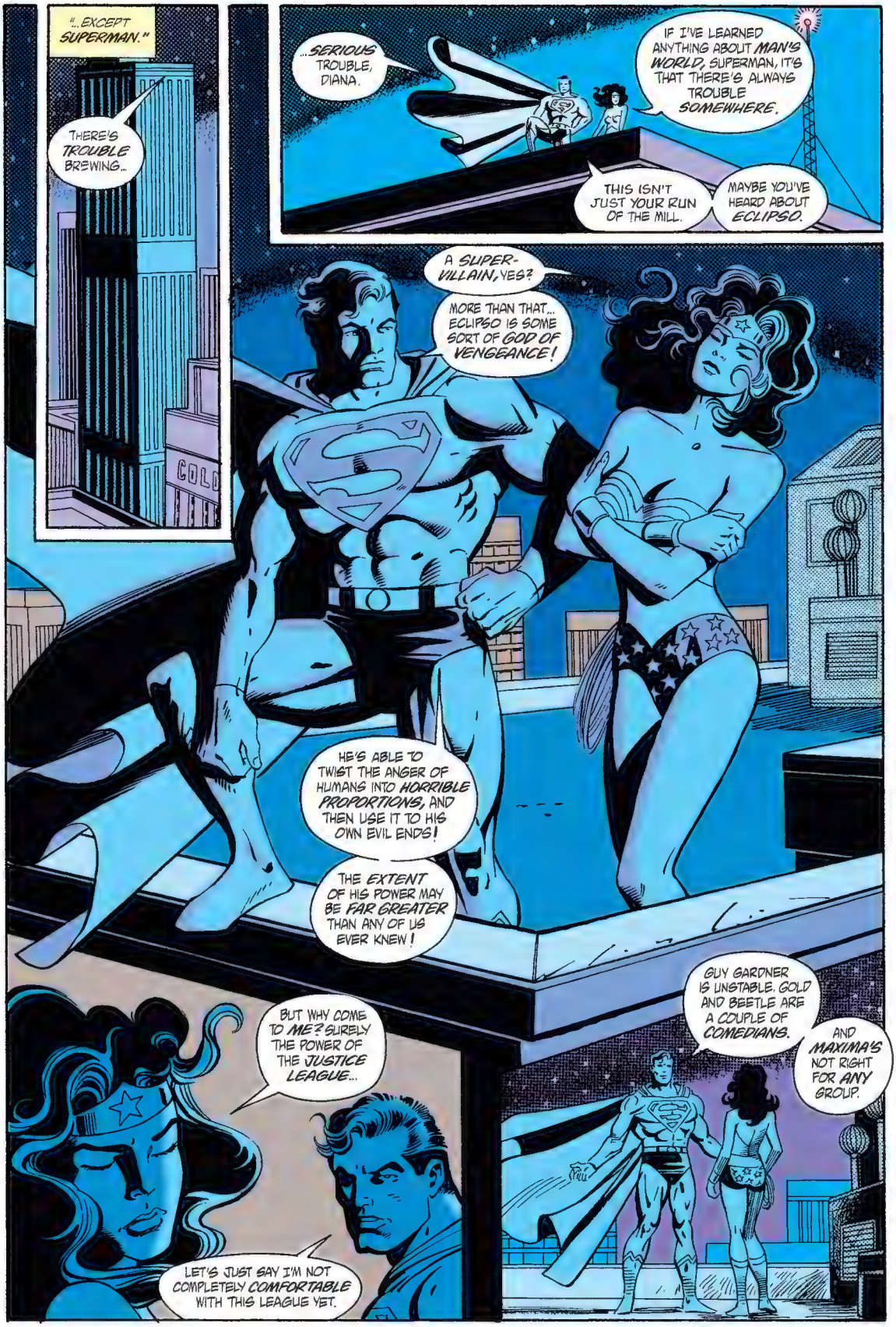
AS IT HAPPENS BUG-EYES, I'VE BEEN *TEMPORARILY* REINSTATED. JERKFACE JORDAN GOT HIMSELF *ECLIPSED*.* AND THEY NEED A *REAL* MAN'S HELP
KILOWOG USED HIS RING TO WHIP UP A *LOANER* FOR ME SO I COULD LEND A HAND...
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S *DOING* ANYTHING. WE'RE ALL TO-TOGETHER FOR SOME *EARTH-SHAKING* CRISIS...
*SEE THE GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL #6--ON SALE NOW.


...AND NOW WE'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO SIT AROUND HERE TWIDDLIN' OUR THUMBS ON *THIS* TWINKIE'S SAY-SO!
SOME HEROES...!


I UNDERSTAND YOUR IMPATIENCE, GREEN LANTERN, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT IF IT CAME FROM ME ALONE--
--THE TALE I HAVE TO TELL YOU MIGHT SOUND TOO *UNBELIEVABLE!*


SO TRY US ANYWAY. I MEAN, GEEZ--SUPERDUDE CALLS US TOGETHER FOR THIS BIG DEAL MEETING AND THEN HE DOESN'T EVEN SHOW UP!
NOW, GUY...
IF SUPERMAN SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT, THEN IT OBVIOUSLY IS.
AND I THINK WE CAN SHOW HIM THE COURTESY OF WAITING FOR HIM TO TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON.
I'M SURE THAT WHATEVER'S DELAYED HIM IS--
YEAH, YEAH. SAVE YOUR BREATH.
PROBABLY OFF USIN' HIS HEAT VISION TO KEEP UP HIS TAN.
I THOUGHT SUPERMAN SAID HE WAS ROUNDING UP SOME MORE HELP.
YEAH? WHAT'S THE MATTER, WE'RE NOT HELP ENOUGH?
I HATE TO HAVE TO AGREE WITH GUY, BUT WE CAME WHEN HE CALLED, AND HE OUGHT TO BE HERE.
BESIDES, WHAT KIND OF HELP IS HE GOING TO GET--BROTHER POWER THE GEEK?
OR WORSE YET--HIM!

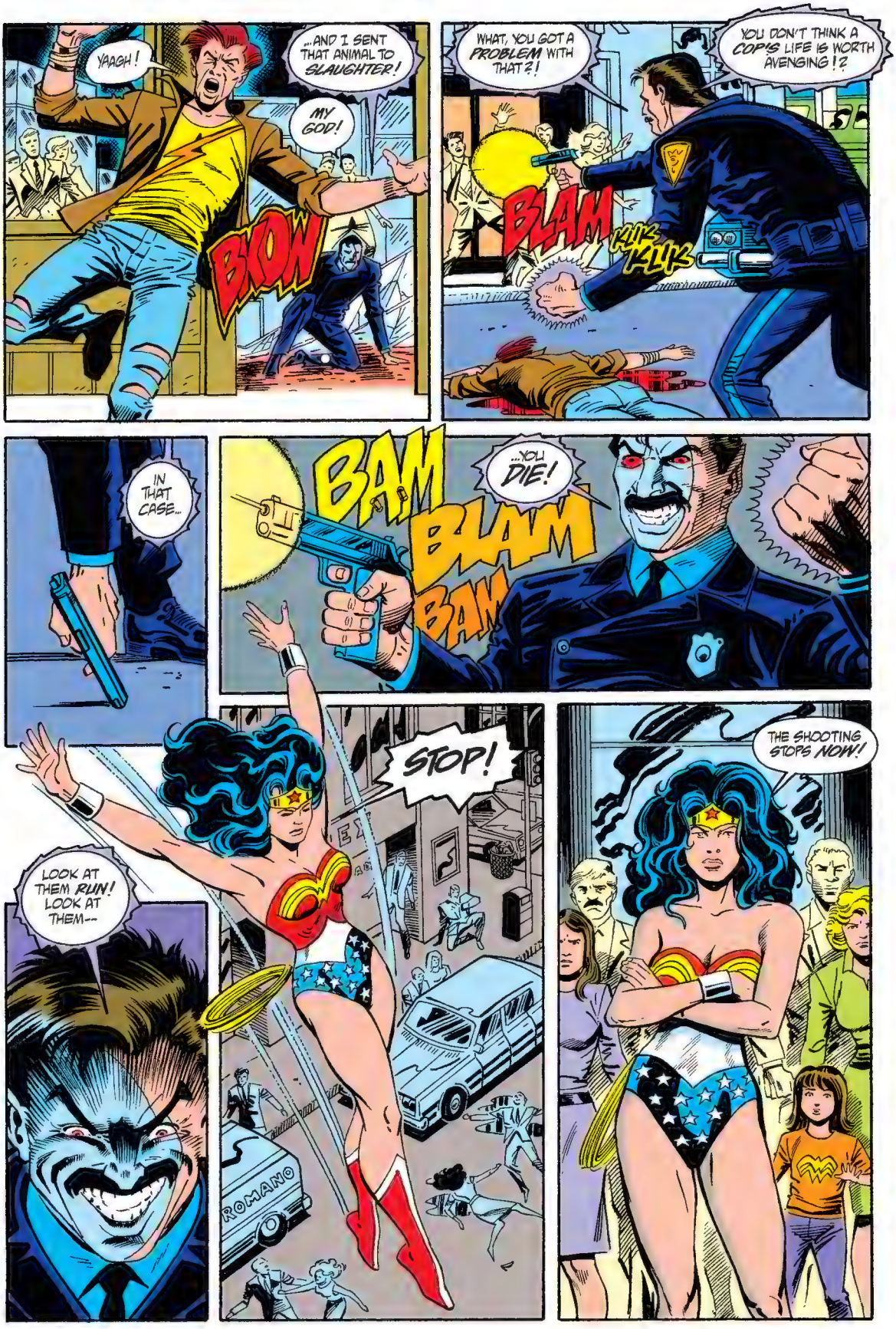

ALWAYS THE CHARMER, HUH, GARDNER?
LIGHTEN UP, METAMUCIL.
THAT'S METAMORPHO.
HEY, REX, GOOD TO SEE YOU!
YES, REX. YOU KNOW EVERYONE, DON'T YOU?
EXCEPT BLOODWYND AND MAXIMA, I SUPPOSE.
PLEASED T'MEETCHA.
AS AM I. I HAVE HEARD MUCH--
MUCH ABOUT YOU.
WHAT IS THIS SPECIMEN EXACTLY? ITS COLORING IS LIKE THAT OF A XANTHAZIAN POISON BLADDERFISH.
ITS SCENT ALSO.
GEE, DON'T HOLD BACK, MAXIMA--TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THE REST OF US!
IN TRUTH, I THINK LITTLE AT ALL ABOUT ANY OF YOU...


"...EXCEPT SUPERMAN."
THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING...
...SERIOUS TROUBLE, DIANA.
IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING ABOUT MAN'S WORLD, SUPERMAN, IT'S THAT THERE'S ALWAYS TROUBLE SOMEWHERE.
THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR RUN OF THE MILL.
MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT ECLIPSO.
A SUPER-VILLAIN, YES?
MORE THAN THAT... ECLIPSO IS SOME SORT OF GOD OF VENGEANCE!
HE'S ABLE TO TWIST THE ANGER OF HUMANS INTO HORRIBLE PROPORTIONS, AND THEN USE IT TO HIS OWN EVIL ENDS!
THE EXTENT OF HIS POWER MAY BE FAR GREATER THAN ANY OF US EVER KNEW!
BUT WHY COME TO ME? SURELY THE POWER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...
LET'S JUST SAY I'M NOT COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE WITH THIS LEAGUE YET.
GUY GARDNER IS UNSTABLE. GOLD AND BEETLE ARE A COUPLE OF COMEDIANS.
AND MAXIMA'S NOT RIGHT FOR ANY GROUP.

I...
NO, SUPERMAN, I'M SORRY.
I THINK PERHAPS THAT I'M NOT READY FOR GROUPS, EITHER.
I UNDER-STAND.
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT I WOULD'VE SHARED YOUR RELUCTANCE.
BUT YOU KNOW --IF YOU GIVE THEM A CHANCE, YOUR FRIENDS MAY JUST SURPRISE YOU.
WE'LL SEE. THANKS FOR LISTENING, ANYWAY.
WISH ME LUCK.

SAY, HECTOR, LOOK! ISN'T THAT SUPERMAN UP THERE?
POLICE
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S DOING IN BOSTON?
MAKING OUR JOBS A LITTLE EASIER, I HOPE.
MAYBE IF HE FLIES AROUND A WHILE, SOME CROOKS'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE--
:SQUAWK: ALL UNITS IN THE VICINITY OF BOYLSTON AND DARTMOUTH--ROBBERY IN PROGRESS!
THAT'S US! SO MUCH FOR WISHFUL THINKING.
UNIT TWO-NINER RESPONDING.
SHUT THE MOUTH, LADY!
AIEEE!
POLICE
SCREEEEECH
HALT! POLICE!
GET DOWN, LONETTE, HE'S--
URNGK!
BLAM
KBLAM

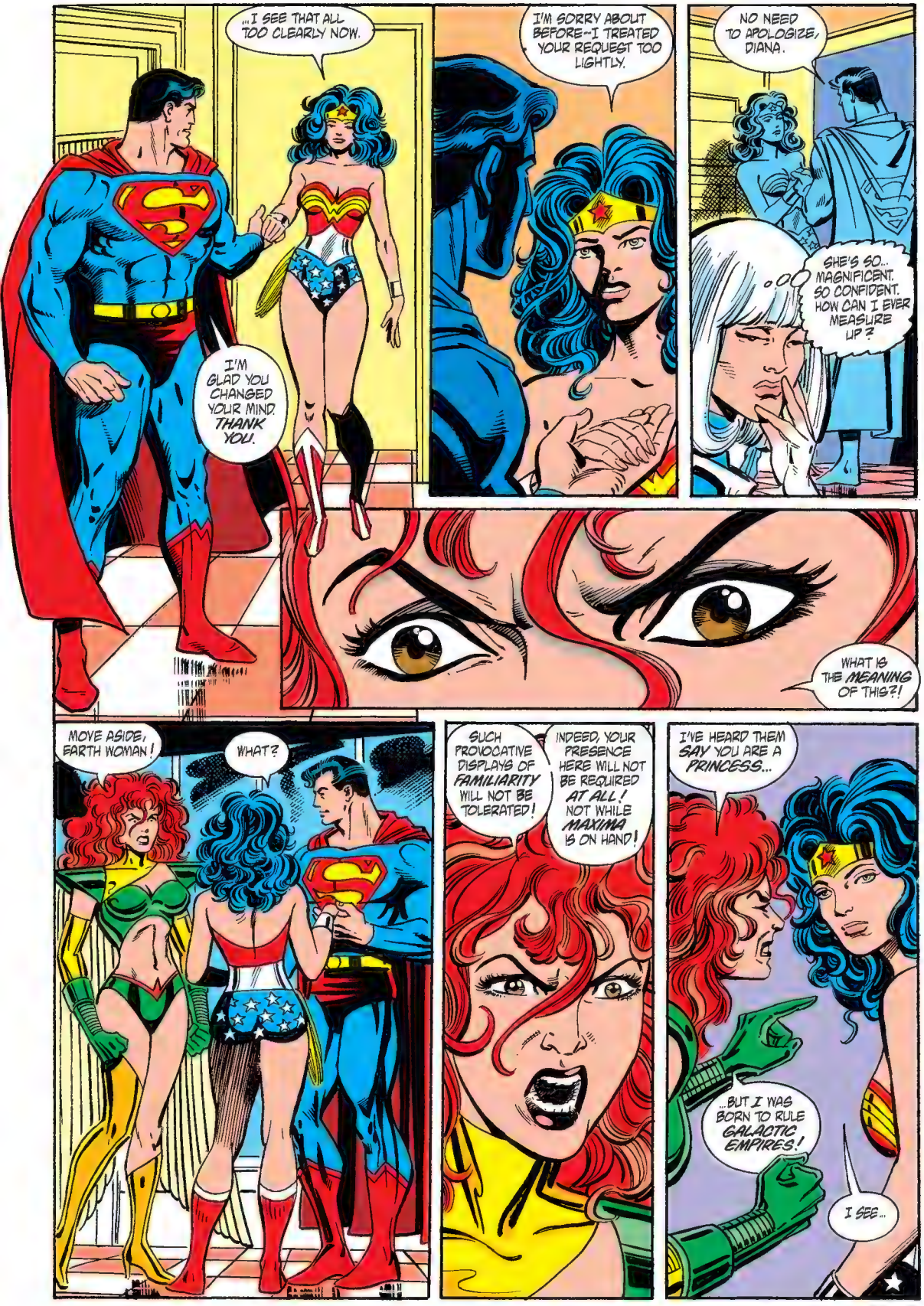
LONETTE!!
ANIMAL! YOU STINKING ANIMAL!
CHK-KASH
OOF!
OUTTA MY FACE, COP!
SHE HAD TWO KIDS, DAMN YOU!
AND I'M GONNA TELL THOSE KIDS THAT HER KILLER GOT THE JUSTICE HE DESERVED!
I'M GONNA TELL THEM AN ANIMAL MURDERED THEIR MOTHER...


YAAGH!
...AND I SENT THAT ANIMAL TO SLAUGHTER!
MY GOD!
BKOW
WHAT, YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
YOU DON'T THINK A COP'S LIFE IS WORTH AVENGING!?
BLAM
KLIK KLIK
IN THAT CASE...
BAM
BLAM
BAM
...YOU DIE!
STOP!
LOOK AT THEM RUN! LOOK AT THEM--
ROMANO
THE SHOOTING STOPS NOW!

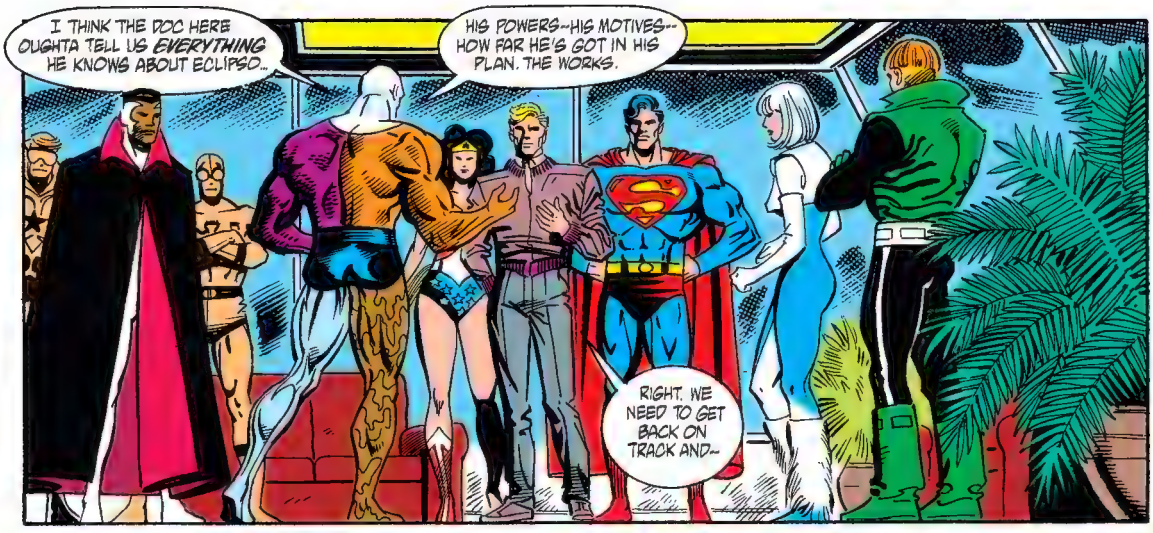
I KNOW THAT THE KILLING HAS GOT TO END!
KPOW
YOU DON'T KNOW WHOM YOU'RE ORDERING ABOUT, WOMAN!
THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW!
KA-PING
CHING
PING
YOUR LASSO--!
IT WILL MAKE A VALUABLE WEAPON--
--ONCE I TAKE POSSESSION OF YOUR BODY!
NO! NEVER!
THAT ANGERS YOU, DOESN'T IT? THE THOUGHT THAT I WILL HAVE YOU!
YOU WON'T!
BAK
IN FACT, IT LOOKS VERY MUCH TO ME--
RRRNR...

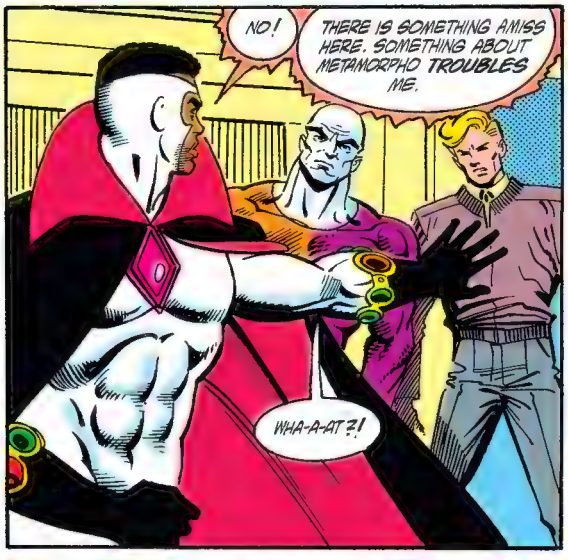
...LIKE I HAVE YOU!
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, WONDER WOMAN, THEN YOU ARE A FOOL!
THIS HUMAN BODY HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS TO ME. SO I TAKE MY LEAVE UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
AND WE SHALL MEET--
--AGAIN...!
WHA--?!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
EVIL HAPPENED..
POLICE
...AN EVIL THAT MUST BE ENDED!

I'LL LET DR. GORDON CONTINUE...
...HE'S HAD MORE EXPERIENCE WITH ECLIPSO THAN ANYONE.
EXPERIENCE MORE ON HIS TERMS THAN MY OWN, I'M AFRAID.
IT'S TAKEN ME FAR TOO LONG TO REALIZE HOW MONSTROUS HIS POWER AND AMBITIONS TRULY ARE!
ECLIPSO CAN USE THE BLACK DIAMONDS-- THE FRAGMENTS OF THE STONE WITH WHICH HIS ANCIENT FOES IMPRISONED HIM--
--TO TAKE CONTROL OF ANYBODY WHO TOUCHES ONE OF THE GEMS IN THE HEAT OF ANGER.
SO HE MAKES YOU DO THINGS YOU'D ONLY DO WHEN YOU'RE MAD?
WHICH IN GUY'S CASE IS ALL THE TIME.
NO--NO, IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN THAT! ONCE ECLIPSO TAKES POSSESSION, HIS VICTIM'S MIND IS TOTALLY BLANKED OUT!
ECLIPSO'S IDENTITY IS IN CHARGE --THE BODY IS HIS ALONE TO CONTROL!
OR BODIES: HE'S CAPABLE OF MULTIPLE, SIMULTANEOUS POSSESSIONS!
IMAGINE HOW DANGEROUS IT WOULD BE TO HAVE ECLIPSO CONTROLLING A SUPERHERO'S POWERS. MINE. MAXIMA'S.
HE'S ALREADY TAKEN A GREEN LANTERN.
JORDAN DOESN'T DESERVE THE RING!
ENOUGH, GUY, IT'S--
IT'S UP TO US TO STOP IT!

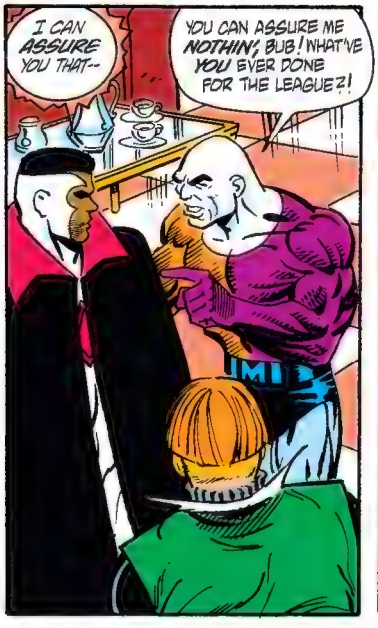

...I SEE THAT ALL TOO CLEARLY NOW.
I'M GLAD YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND. THANK YOU.
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE--I TREATED YOUR REQUEST TOO LIGHTLY.
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, DIANA.
SHE'S SO... MAGNIFICENT. SO CONFIDENT. HOW CAN I EVER MEASURE UP?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
MOVE ASIDE, EARTH WOMAN!
WHAT?
SUCH PROVOCATIVE DISPLAYS OF FAMILIARITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
INDEED, YOUR PRESENCE HERE WILL NOT BE REQUIRED AT ALL! NOT WHILE MAXIMA IS ON HAND!
I'VE HEARD THEM SAY YOU ARE A PRINCESS...
...BUT I WAS BORN TO RULE GALACTIC EMPIRES!
I SEE...

AND YOU MUST BE DR. GORDON.
...
SUPERMAN'S EXPLAINED YOUR MISSION TO ME.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, WOMAN...
...THAT YOU DARE TO IGNORE ME?
HEY, YOU WANT ATTENTION, BABE, YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT THE GUY WHO KNOWS HOW TO GIVE IT!
BAH!
PUT THOSE LEERING EYES BACK IN THEIR SOCKETS BEFORE I RIP THEM OUT MYSELF!
WHOA!
FINE BY ME, MAXIE. YA WANNA PASS UP A GOOD THING, THAT'S YOUR LOSS.
THIS...
...IS WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT, DIANA.
THEY ARE A BIT UNDISCIPLINED.
SAY, YOU GUYS, I GOTTA TELL YA THIS IS REAL ENTERTAININ'--
--BUT MAYBE IT'S TIME WE GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS, HUH?


I THINK THE DOC HERE OUGHTA TELL US EVERYTHING HE KNOWS ABOUT ECLIPSO...
HIS POWERS--HIS MOTIVES--HOW FAR HE'S GOT IN HIS PLAN. THE WORKS.
RIGHT. WE NEED TO GET BACK ON TRACK AND--

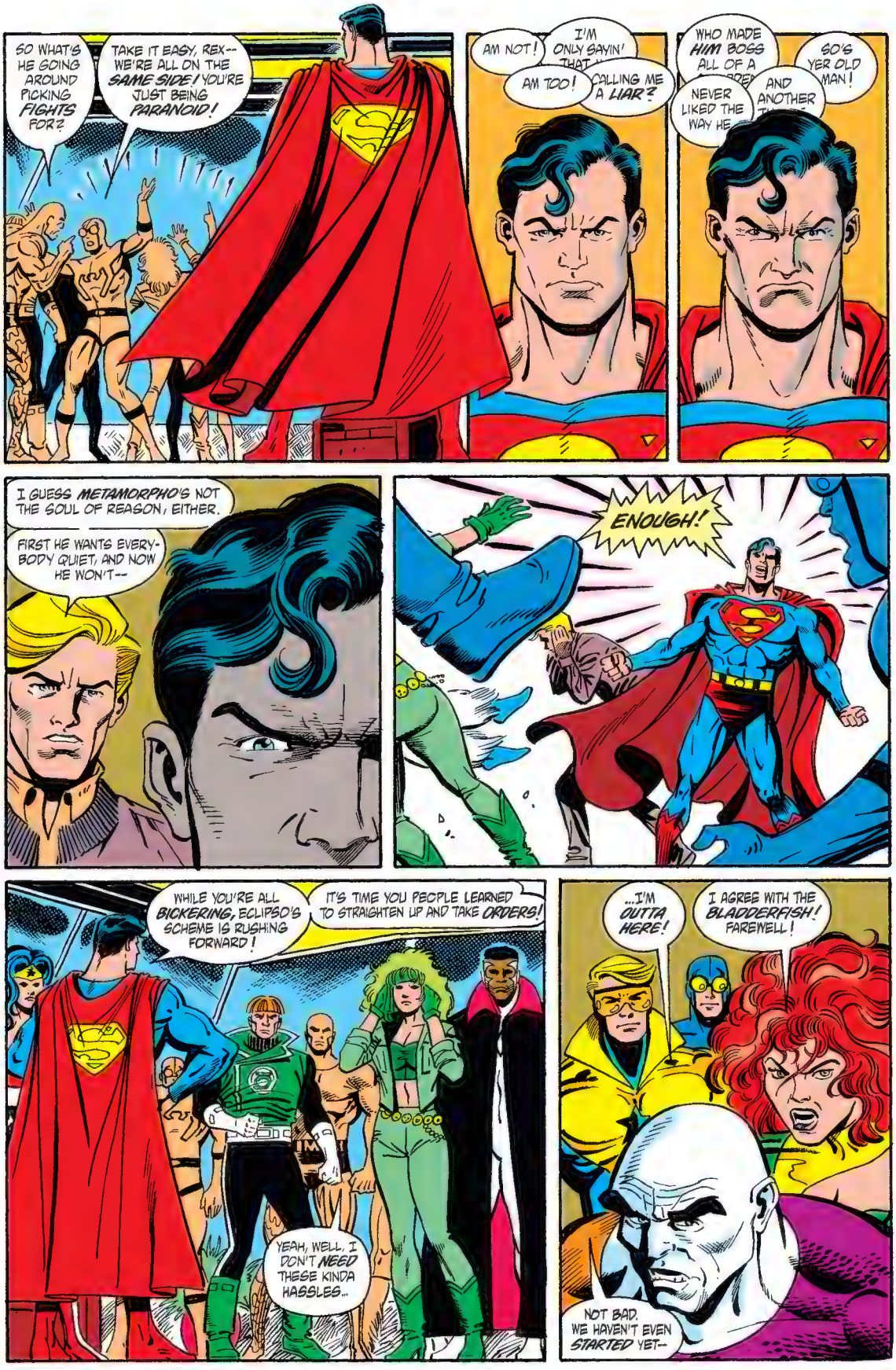

NO!
THERE IS SOMETHING AMISS HERE. SOMETHING ABOUT METAMORPHO TROUBLES ME.
WHA-A-AT?!

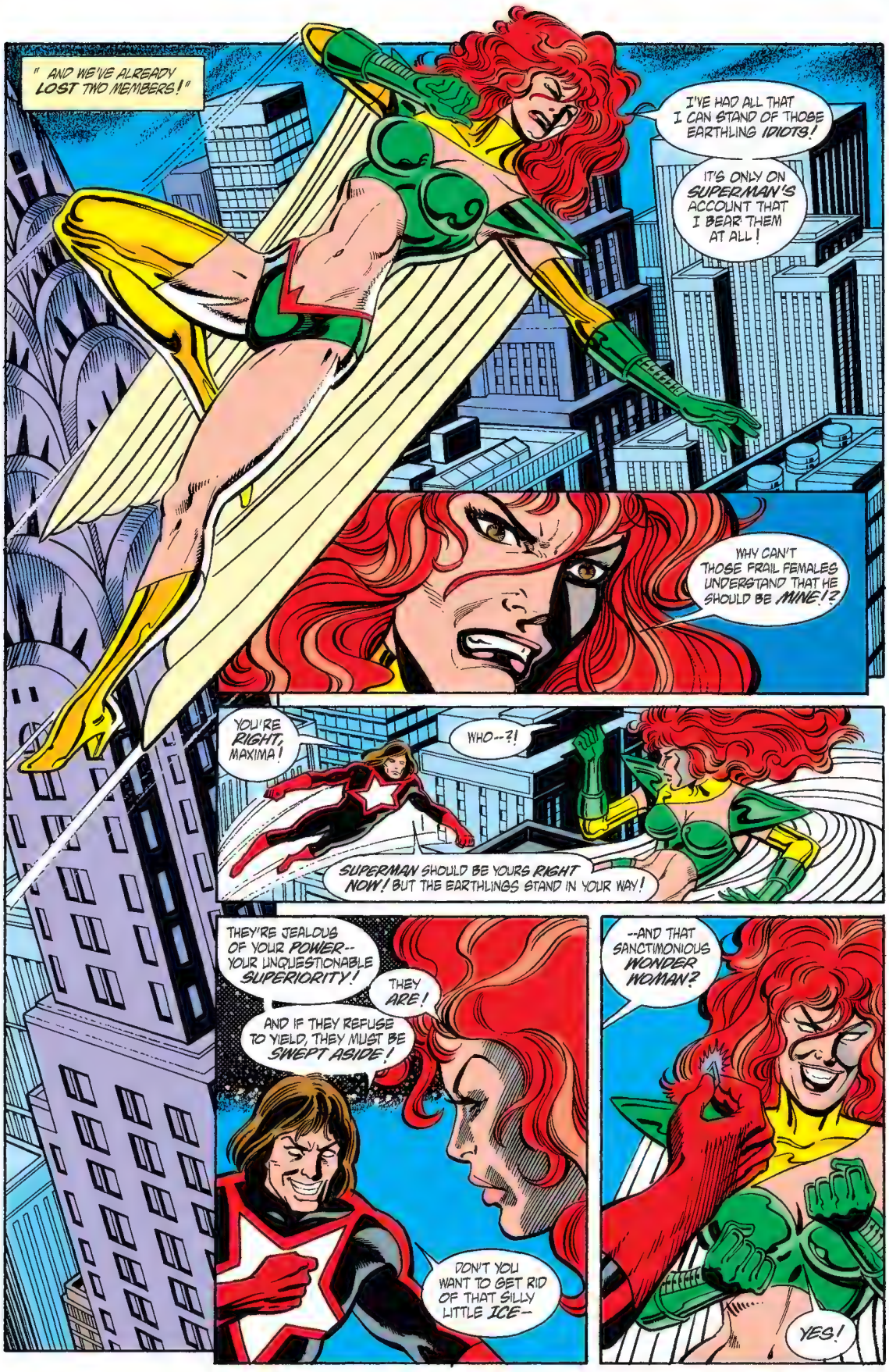
WHO'S THIS GUY TO START QUESTIONING ME?
HELL, I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF HIM TILL TODAY--AND YOU'RE GONNA TRUST HIM OVER ME?


I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT--
YOU CAN ASSURE ME NOTHIN', BUB! WHAT'VE YOU EVER DONE FOR THE LEAGUE?!

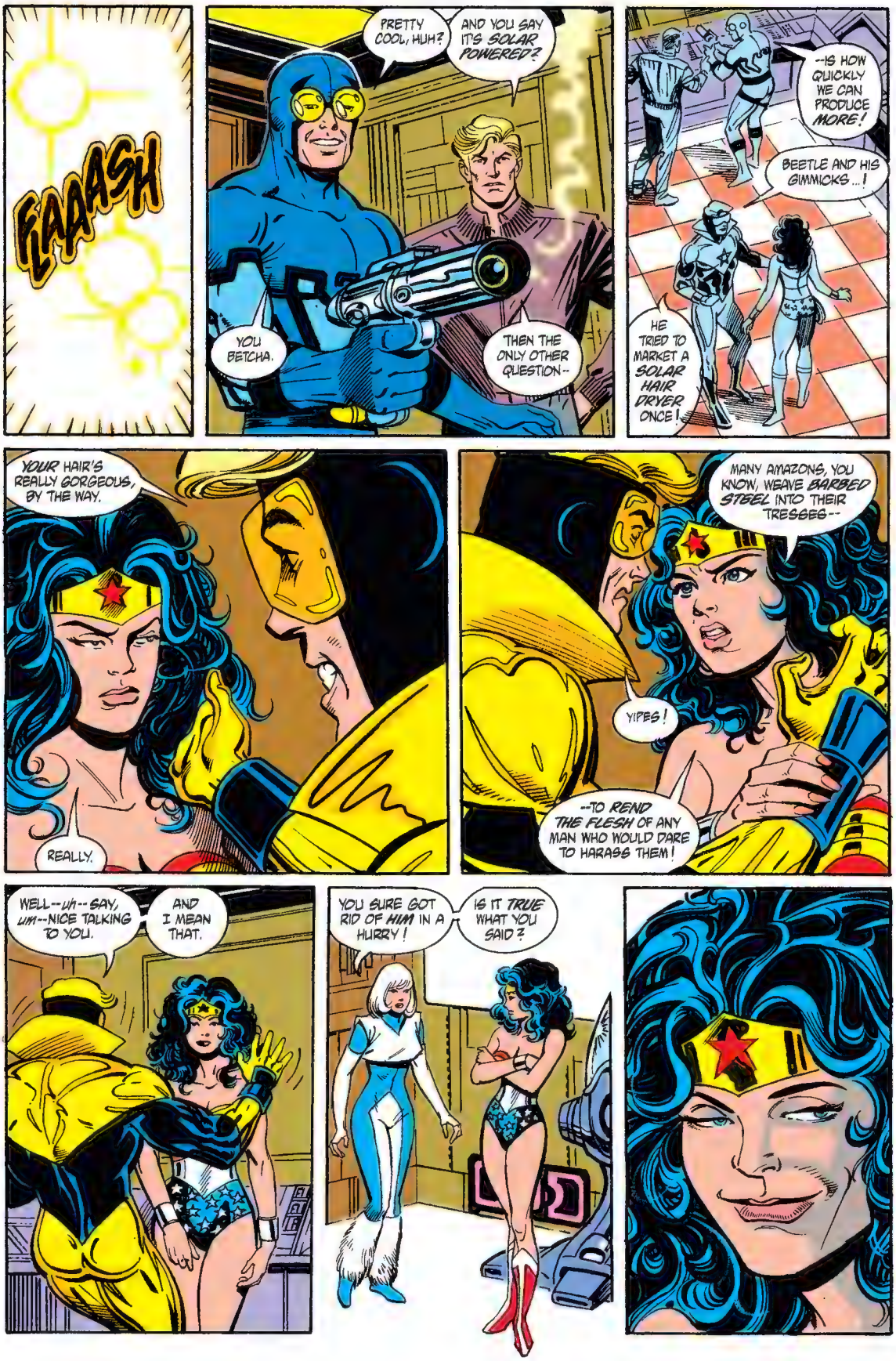
TALL, BALD AN' UGLY'S GOT A POINT THERE! WHAT'S BLOODWYND'S RECORD, ANYWAY?

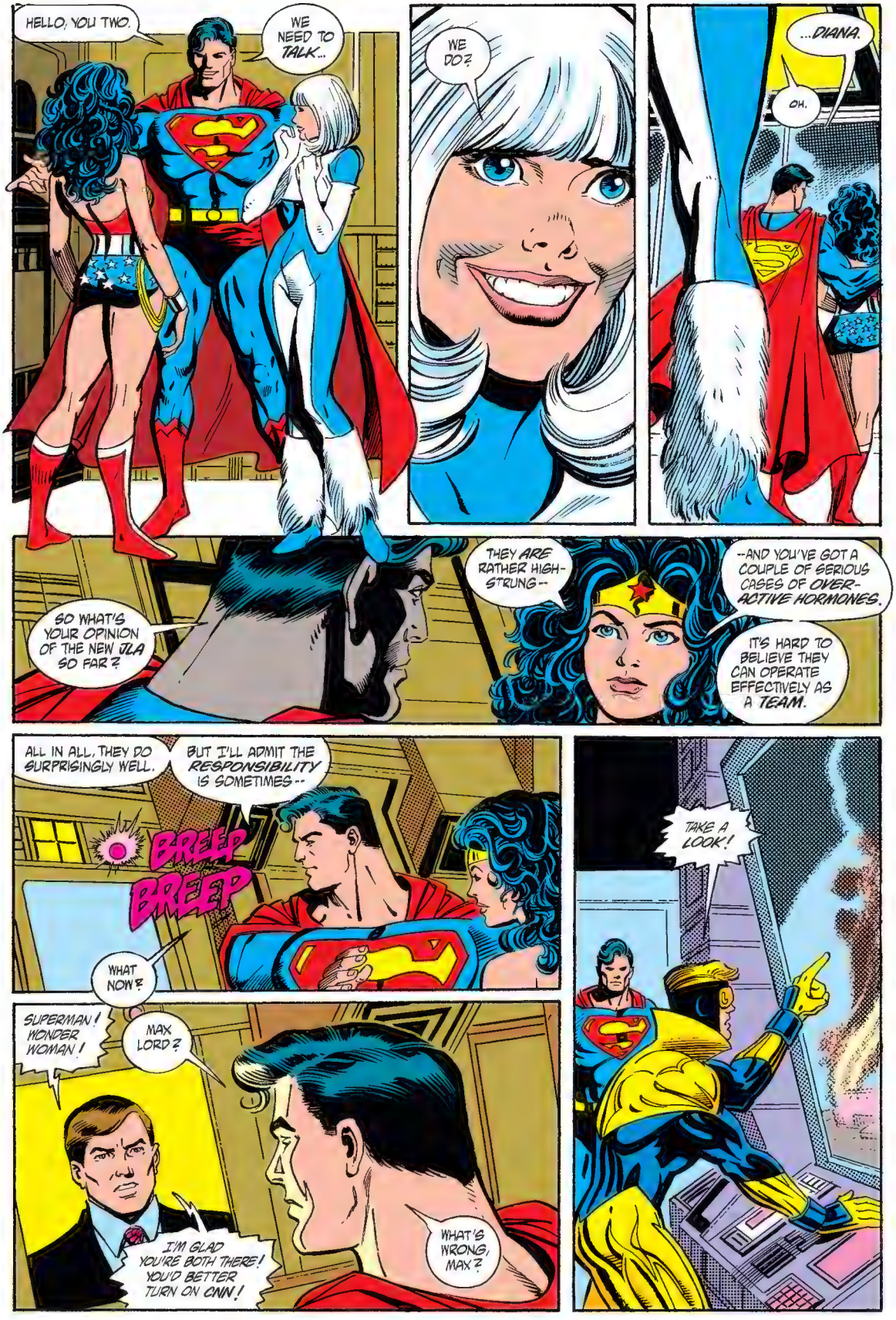
GUY GARDNER, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED! IF YOU EVER GAVE A MOMENT'S THOUGHT TO ANYONE BUT YOURSELF--
YIKES!
--YOU'D KNOW HOW VALUABLE BLOODWYND'S BEEN TO THE TEAM!


SO WHAT'S HE GOING AROUND PICKING FIGHTS FOR?
TAKE IT EASY, REX-- WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE! YOU'RE JUST BEING PARANOID!
AM NOT!
I'M ONLY SAYIN' THAT
AM TOO!
CALLING ME A LIAR?
WHO MADE HIM BOSS ALL OF A
NEVER LIKED THE WAY HE
AND ANOTHER
SO'S YER OLD MAN!
I GUESS METAMORPHO'S NOT THE SOUL OF REASON, EITHER.
FIRST HE WANTS EVERY-BODY QUIET, AND NOW HE WON'T--
ENOUGH!
WHILE YOU'RE ALL BICKERING, ECLIPSO'S SCHEME IS RUSHING FORWARD!
IT'S TIME YOU PEOPLE LEARNED TO STRAIGHTEN UP AND TAKE ORDERS!
YEAH, WELL, I DON'T NEED THESE KINDA HASSLES...
...I'M OUTTA HERE!
I AGREE WITH THE BLADDERFISH! FAREWELL!
NOT BAD. WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED YET--


" AND WE'VE ALREADY LOST TWO MEMBERS!"
I'VE HAD ALL THAT I CAN STAND OF THOSE EARTHLING IDIOTS!
IT'S ONLY ON SUPERMAN'S ACCOUNT THAT I BEAR THEM AT ALL!
WHY CAN'T THOSE FRAIL FEMALES UNDERSTAND THAT HE SHOULD BE MINE!?
YOU'RE RIGHT, MAXIMA!
WHO--?!
SUPERMAN SHOULD BE YOURS RIGHT NOW! BUT THE EARTHLINGS STAND IN YOUR WAY!
THEY'RE JEALOUS OF YOUR POWER-- YOUR UNQUESTIONABLE SUPERIORITY!
THEY ARE!
AND IF THEY REFUSE TO YIELD, THEY MUST BE SWEPT ASIDE!
DON'T YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THAT SILLY LITTLE ICE--
--AND THAT SANCTIMONIOUS WONDER WOMAN?
YES!

YES!
YES!
I FEARED THE MARTIANS ABSENCE WOULD STALL MY PLANS...
...BUT THE POWERS OF THIS BODY ARE INCREDIBLE! THE POWERS OF THIS MIND...
...INTOXICATING!
WITH SUCH STUPENDOUS MIGHT--
--AT MY COMMAND--
--SURELY NOTHING WILL STOP ME NOW!

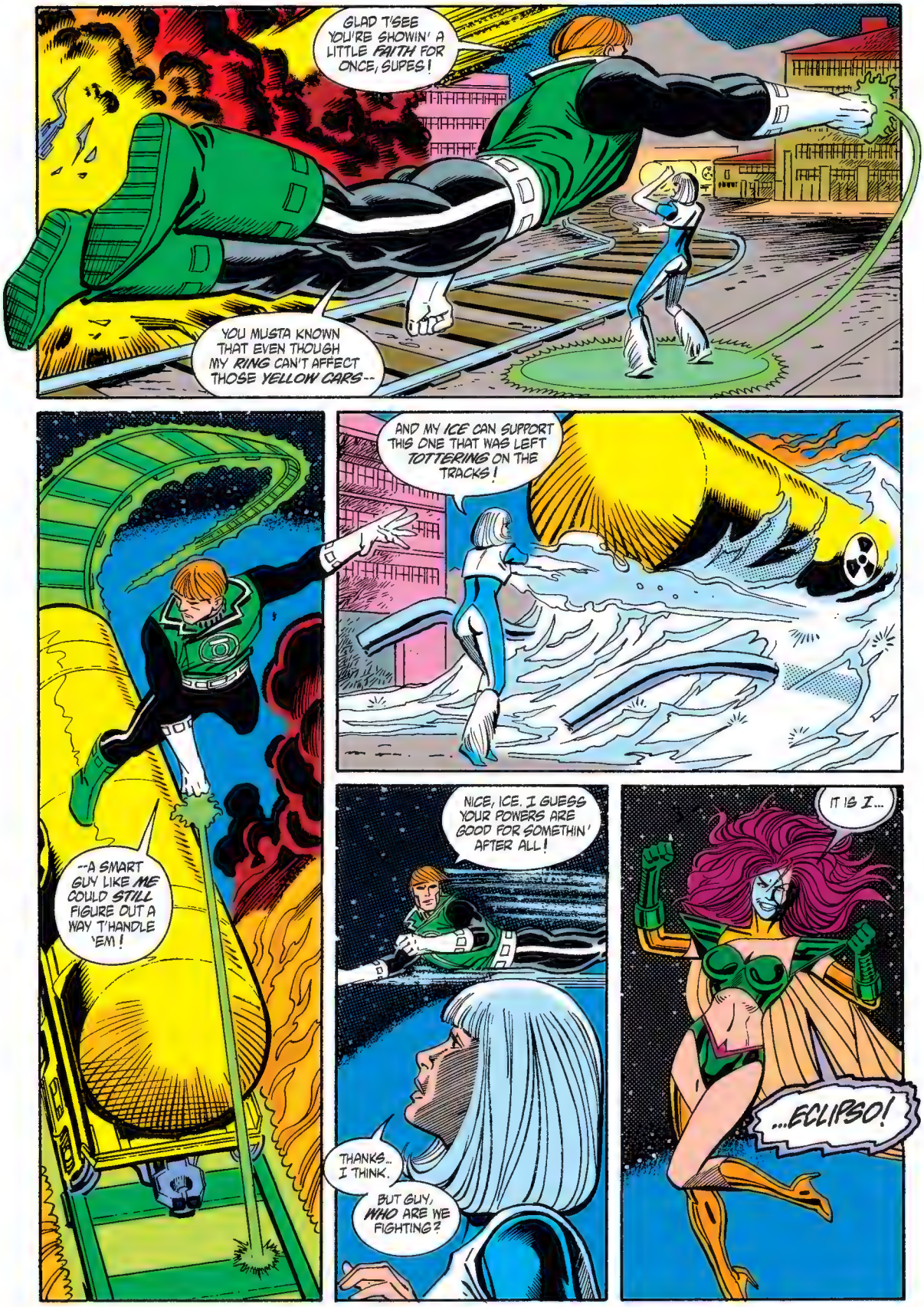

KAAASH
PRETTY COOL, HUH?
AND YOU SAY IT'S SOLAR POWERED?
YOU BETCHA.
THEN THE ONLY OTHER QUESTION--
--IS HOW QUICKLY WE CAN PRODUCE MORE!
BEETLE AND HIS GIMMICKS...!
HE TRIED TO MARKET A SOLAR HAIR DRYER ONCE!
YOUR HAIR'S REALLY GORGEOUS, BY THE WAY.
REALLY.
MANY AMAZONS, YOU KNOW, WEAVE BARBED STEEL INTO THEIR TRESSES--
YIPES!
--TO REND THE FLESH OF ANY MAN WHO WOULD DARE TO HARASS THEM!
WELL--UH--SAY, UM--NICE TALKING TO YOU.
AND I MEAN THAT.
YOU SURE GOT RID OF HIM IN A HURRY!
IS IT TRUE WHAT YOU SAID?


HELLO, YOU TWO.
WE NEED TO TALK...
WE DO?
...DIANA.
OH.
SO WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF THE NEW JLA SO FAR?
THEY ARE RATHER HIGH-STRUNG--
--AND YOU'VE GOT A COUPLE OF SERIOUS CASES OF OVER-ACTIVE HORMONES.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THEY CAN OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AS A TEAM.
ALL IN ALL, THEY DO SURPRISINGLY WELL.
BUT I'LL ADMIT THE RESPONSIBILITY IS SOMETIMES--
BREEP
BREEP
WHAT NOW?
TAKE A LOOK!
SUPERMAN! WONDER WOMAN!
MAX LORD?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BOTH THERE! YOU'D BETTER TURN ON CNN!
WHAT'S WRONG, MAX?

--JOHN BREWER REPORTING LIVE FROM THE DIABLO AZUL NUCLEAR WASTE FACILITY!
THE UNIDENTIFIED SUPER-BEING WHOSE ATTACK BEGAN JUST MINUTES AGO NOW SEEMS BENT ON UTTERLY DESTROYING THE COMPLEX...
...IN WHICH EVENT DEADLY RADIOACTIVITY COULD BE UNLEASHED OVER A THREE-STATE AREA!
GREAT GODS!
CNN LIVE
IT'S GOTTA BE THAT CREEP ECLIPSO!
AGREED. AND A BRAZEN MOVE LIKE THIS IS OBVIOUSLY CALCULATED TO DRAW US OUT TO FACE HIM.
BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
I FEAR HIS REASONS ARE FAR MORE DEVIOUS THAN WE MIGHT IMAGINE.
DR. GORDON HAS PAINTED ECLIPSO AS EVIL PERSONIFIED--
THAT'S RIGHT.
--AND IT IS IN EVIL'S NATURE ALWAYS TO CORRUPT WHAT IS GOOD.
I CANNOT SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THE FORCES OF GOOD HAVE ALREADY BEEN GREATLY COMPROMISED.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS THEN!
BEETLE, YOU AND GORDON STAY HERE TO WORK ON DUPLICATING THE SOLAR GUN!
YOU GOT IT, CHIEF!
C'MON, DOC, WE BETTER GET DOWN TO WORK!
YES, I--I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT I WONDER...

YO, BEETLE!
REX--YOU'RE BACK!
WHERE'S THE FIRE? I JUST SAW EVERYBODY RUSHIN' OFF!
THEY'RE CHASING DOWN ECLIPSO--OR ONE OF HIS SNATCHED BODIES ANYWAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DOING OKAY NOW?
YEAH--GOT A LITTLE FRESH AIR AND COOLED OFF.
ANYTHING I CAN HELP YA WITH HERE?
WELL, IT'D PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA IF SOMEONE STUCK BY THE MONITOR WHILE WE WORK ON OUR ANTI-ECLIPSO GUNS.
NO PROBLEM.
YOU GUYS LET ME KNOW HOW THE WORK GOES. I'LL BE HERE IF YA NEED ME.
GREAT.
Y'KNOW, I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS. I HAVEN'T DONE MUCH TINKERING LATELY--BUT I USED TO DO SOME INVENTING FOR KORD INDUSTRIES.
KORD. YES.
BUT I, UM, JUST REMEMBERED... UH... SOMETHING--SOMETHING URGENT.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO NOW.
HUH?

WOW! THIS PLACE IS AN INFERNO!
A RADIOACTIVE INFERNO IF WE DON'T MOVE QUICKLY, BOOSTER!
HEY, TAKE A GANDER UP AHEAD!
IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS!?
THOSE RAILROAD CARS! THEY'RE FULL OF NUCLEAR WASTE!
I'YE GOT ONE OF THEM!
GUY?


GLAD T'SEE YOU'RE SHOWIN' A LITTLE FAITH FOR ONCE, SUPES!
YOU MUSTA KNOWN THAT EVEN THOUGH MY RING CAN'T AFFECT THOSE YELLOW CARS--
AND MY ICE CAN SUPPORT THIS ONE THAT WAS LEFT TOTTERING ON THE TRACKS!
--A SMART GUY LIKE ME COULD STILL FIGURE OUT A WAY T'HANDLE 'EM!
NICE, ICE. I GUESS YOUR POWERS ARE GOOD FOR SOMETHIN' AFTER ALL!
THANKS... I THINK.
BUT GUY, WHO ARE WE FIGHTING?
IT IS I...
...ECLIPSO!

ECLIPSO: WHO WILL BE MASTER OF THE EARTH!
KRAK KOOM
HA! YA THINK BLASTIN' SOME DIRT AROUND IS GONNA STOP THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
WHAT A JOKE!
I FIND NO HUMOR HERE, GUY GARDNER. THOSE CONTAINMENT CANISTERS HAVE RUPTURED!
AND ALTHOUGH THE FUEL RODS INSIDE THEM CAN'T BE USED IN POWER PLANTS ANYMORE--
TIKA-TIK-A-TIK-A-TIK-A
--THEY'RE STILL CAPABLE OF EMITTING DANGEROUS LEVELS OF RADIATION!
I SEE WHATCHA MEAN, SUPES! RADS ARE RUNNIN' REAL HIGH...
...AND MY POWER-RINGED SHIELD AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE A PERMANENT SOLUTION!

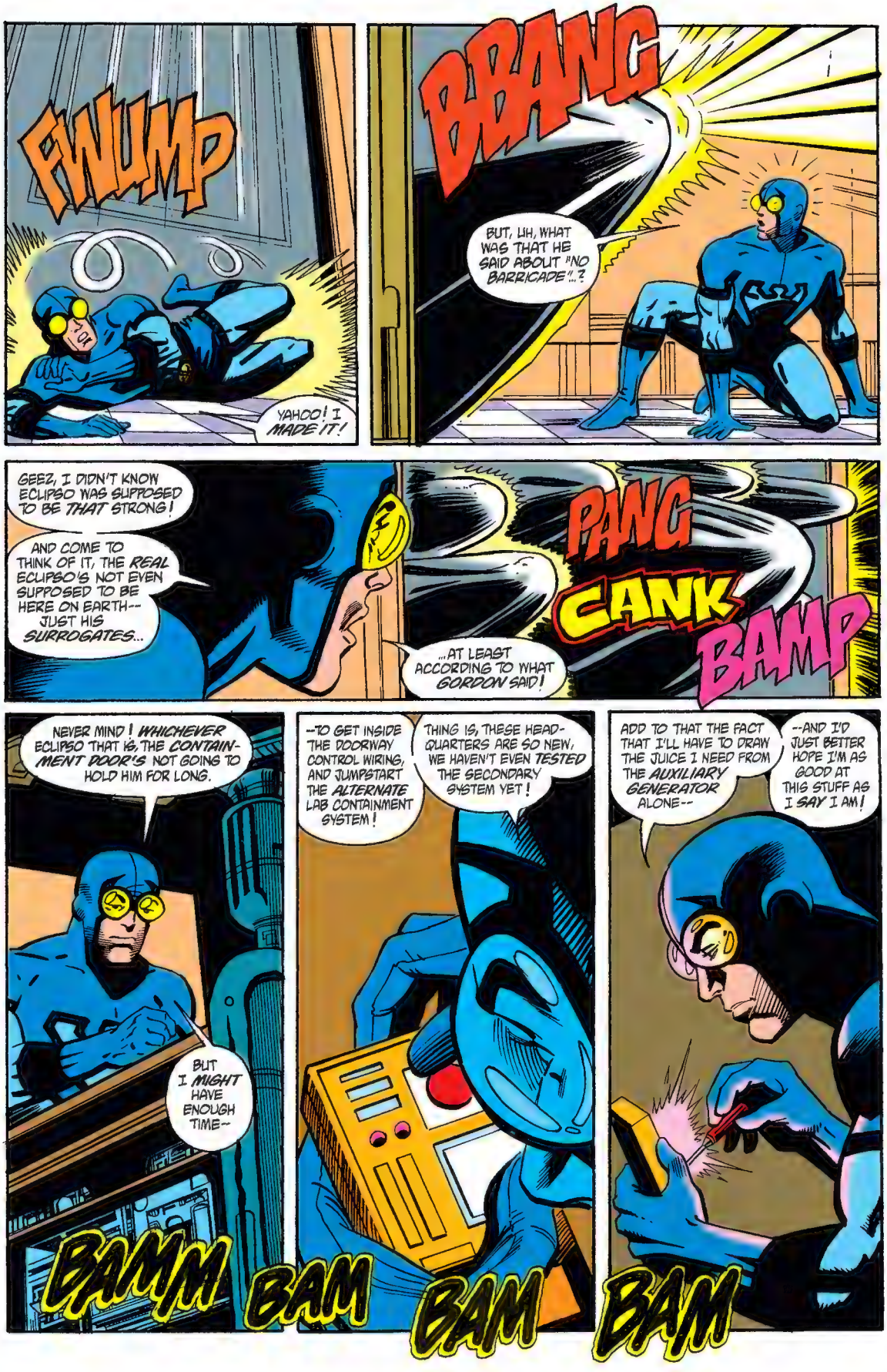
THEN WE DON'T HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE--
--BUT TO CARRY THEM TO OUTER SPACE WHERE THEY WON'T DO ANY HARM!
RIGHT BEHIND YA, SUPERDUPER!
YES, HEROES, FLY! FLEE!
AND WHILE YOU RACE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE THAT'S ALREADY DONE...
...I WILL UNLEASH EVEN MORE HAVOC HERE!
NO!
LET THE SPIRITS OF EARTH PROTECT THEIR OWN!
EARTH, ROCK AND RUBBLE... BATTERING ME!
BUT THEY WILL NOT PREVAIL...

"...FOR ECLIPSO FIGHTS ON MANY FRONTS!"
DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO BRUCE GORDON--
--BUT EVEN WORKING ALONE, I CAN COBBLE TOGETHER SOME BASIC SOLAR GUNS IN NO TIME!
IT MIGHT EVEN REMIND SOME PEOPLE JUST WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER TO THIS--
HUH?
EMERGENCY LIGHTS COMING ON. BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S...
IS ANYBODY THERE?
REX, IS THAT YOU?
YOWNW!
MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THAT BLAST IN TIME, BUT--
uh-oh.
THIS COULD BE TROUBLE.

ON THE CONTRARY. I BRING THE END OF YOUR TROUBLES, BLUE BEETLE...
...I BRING YOUR DEATH!
YIKES! I'D RATHER HAVE A PASTRAMI ON RYE--IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH BOTHER!
YOUR PUERILE HUMOR WILL NOT DEFEAT ME...NOR WILL YOUR ACROBATICS LONG FORESTALL THE INEVITABLE!
HEY, REX! METAMORPHO, A LITTLE HELP IN HERE...?!
I WILL SQUASH YOU LIKE THE INSIGNIFICANT BUG YOU ARE! AND WHEN YOUR FELLOW HEROES RETURN--
--THIS ENTIRE COMPLEX WILL BE UNDER MY CONTROL!
NOT IF I WIPE THAT SMUG EXPRESSION OFF YOUR FACE WITH A WELL PLACED--
SMASH
WHOOPS!

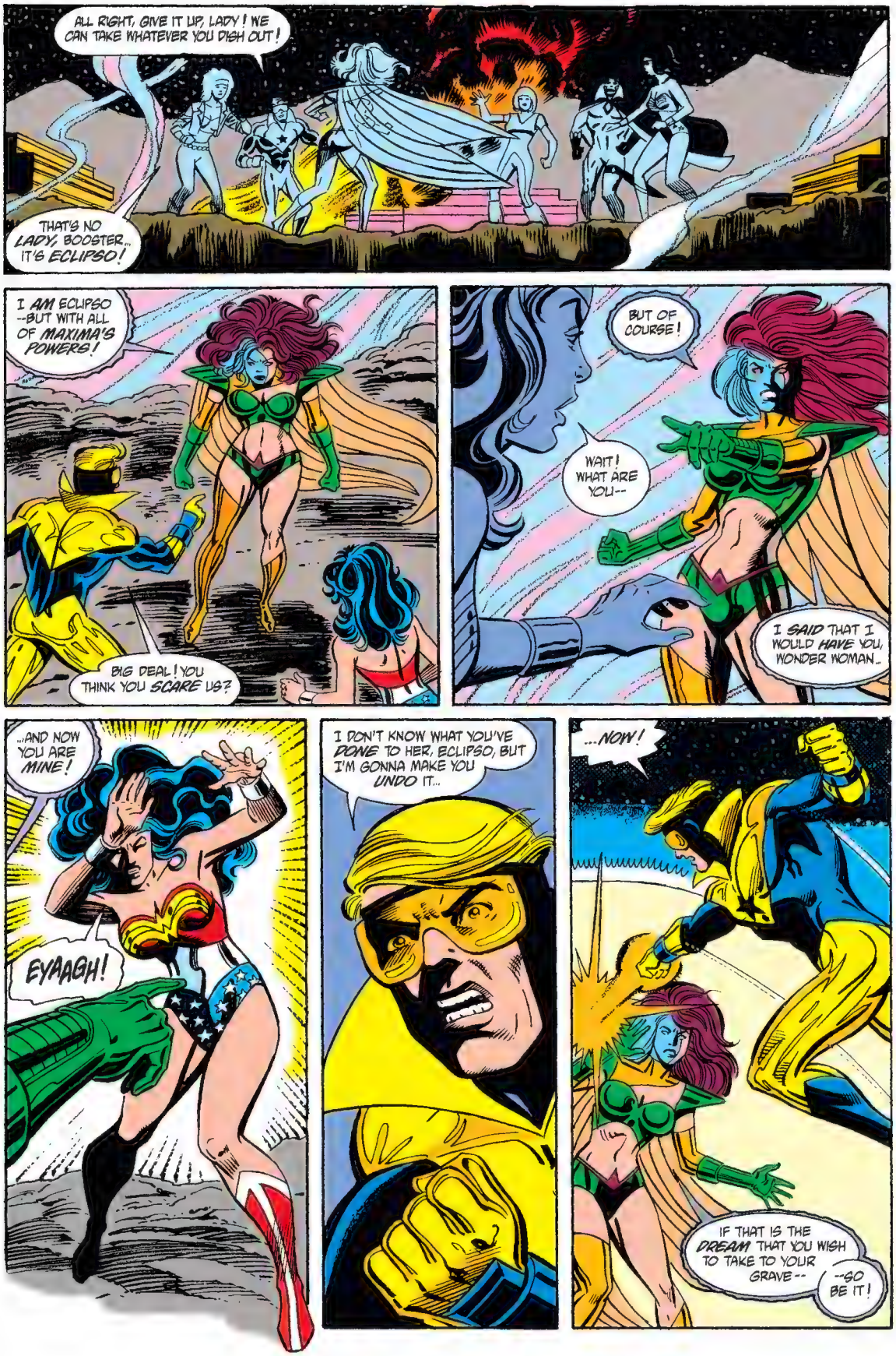
ACCEPT YOUR FATE, BLUE BEETLE! YOU ARE AT MY MERCY...
...AND I HAVE NO MERCY!
AND I'VE GOT NO CHOICE--
--EXCEPT TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE!
REACHING FOR YOUR SOLAR GUN, BEETLE?
GO! LUNGE AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
RATS!
YOU STILL CAN'T OUTRACE A LASER BEAM!
OKAY, YOU'VE GOT ME DEAD TO RIGHTS! WHAT DO YOU WANT--
--AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH METAMORPHO?
PERHAPS I'VE EATEN HIM!
EAT THIS, POINTY-TOP!
ARRRH!

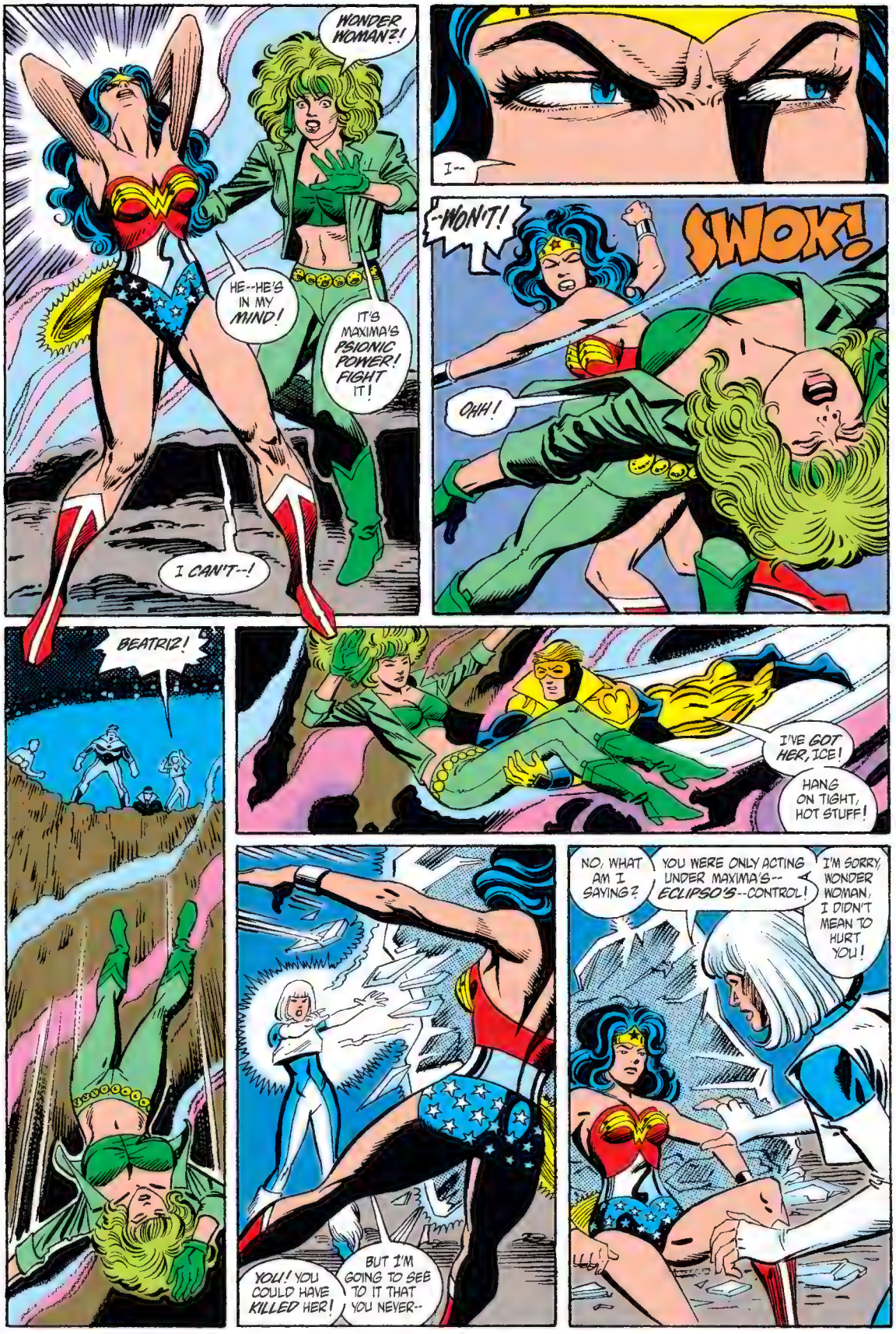
UH-OH, HE RECOVERED FROM THAT SOONER THAN I HOPED!
AND MAN OH MAN, HE'S FAST!
DIE, BEETLE!
HEY, NO FAIR! THIS IS A NO FLYING ZONE!
YOUR RULES OF FAIR PLAY WERE NOT MEANT FOR ECLIPSO!
WELL THEN, I'M NOT GONNA INVITE YOU OVER TO MY HOUSE ANYMORE!
THESE CHILDISH GAMES GROW IRKSOME! WE WILL FINISH THIS NOW!
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY...IF I CAN TIME THIS RIGHT!
EMERGENCY CONTAINMENT
C'MON, BABY, DROP! SHUT ALREADY!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR YOU, INSECT...
...NO BARRICADE THAT CAN KEEP YOU SAFE FROM MY WRATH!

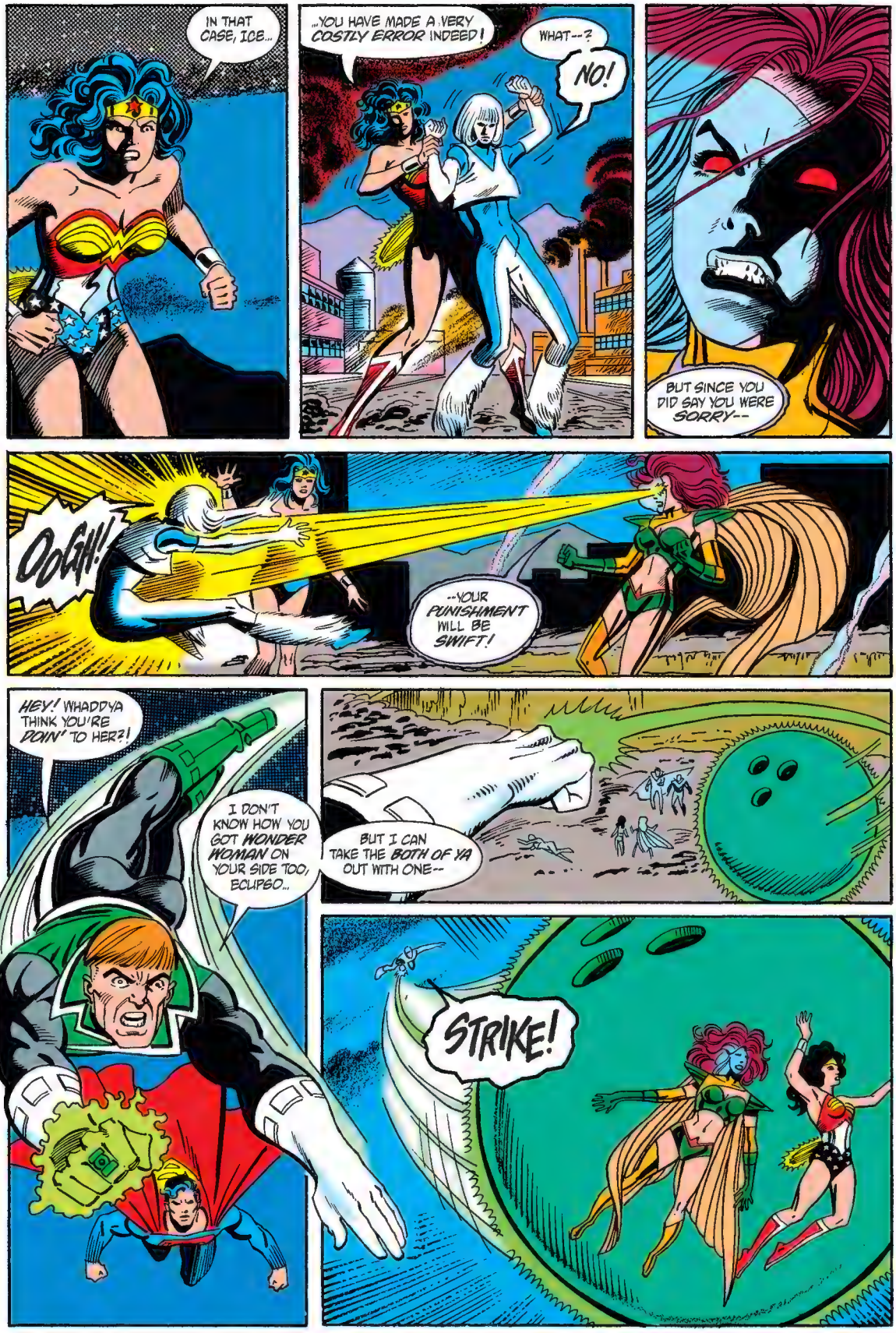

FWUMP
YAHOO! I MADE IT!
BBANG
BUT, UH, WHAT WAS THAT HE SAID ABOUT "NO BARRICADE"...?
GEEZ, I DIDN'T KNOW ECLIPSO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THAT STRONG!
AND COME TO THINK OF IT, THE REAL ECLIPSO'S NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE HERE ON EARTH-- JUST HIS SURROGATES...
PANG
CANK
BAMP
...AT LEAST ACCORDING TO WHAT GORDON SAID!
NEVER MIND! WHICHEVER ECLIPSO THAT IS, THE CONTAINMENT DOOR'S NOT GOING TO HOLD HIM FOR LONG.
BUT I MIGHT HAVE ENOUGH TIME--
--TO GET INSIDE THE DOORWAY CONTROL WIRING, AND JUMPSTART THE ALTERNATE LAB CONTAINMENT SYSTEM!
THING IS, THESE HEADQUARTERS ARE SO NEW, WE HAVEN'T EVEN TESTED THE SECONDARY SYSTEM YET!
ADD TO THAT THE FACT THAT I'LL HAVE TO DRAW THE JUICE I NEED FROM THE AUXILIARY GENERATOR ALONE--
--AND I'D JUST BETTER HOPE I'M AS GOOD AT THIS STUFF AS I SAY I AM!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

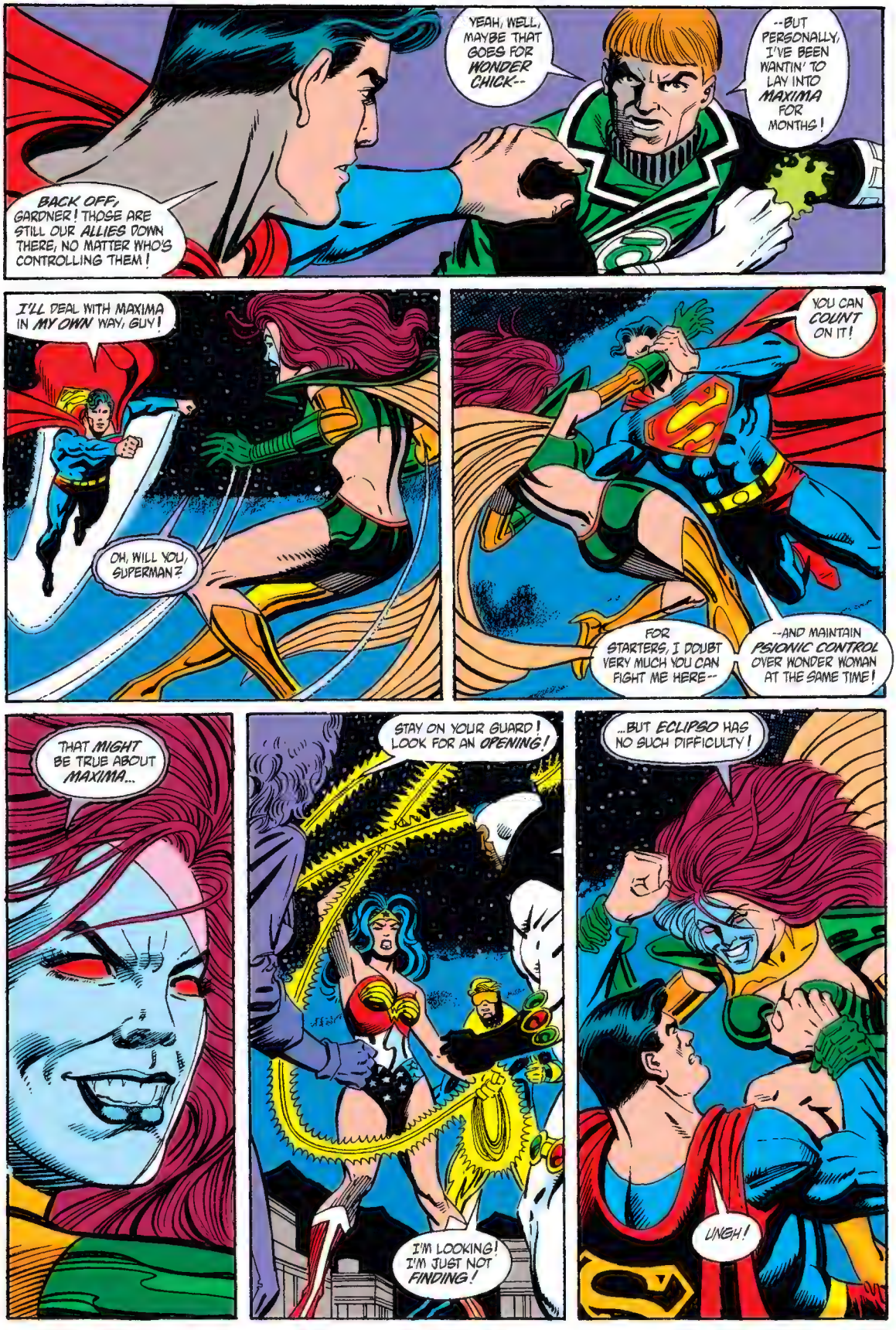
BLUE BEETLE!
YOU WANT ME, MOON PIE?
THEN LET'S SEE YOU COME AND GET ME!
BZZAATTZZ
WHAT--?! A FORCE FIELD! TRAPPING ME!
BUT MAYBE NOT FOR LONG.
EMERGENCY LIGHTS ARE DIMMING AS HE STRUGGLES!
I DON'T THINK THE AUXILIARY POWER'S ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM!
THE FIELD'S GONNA--
--EXPLODE!

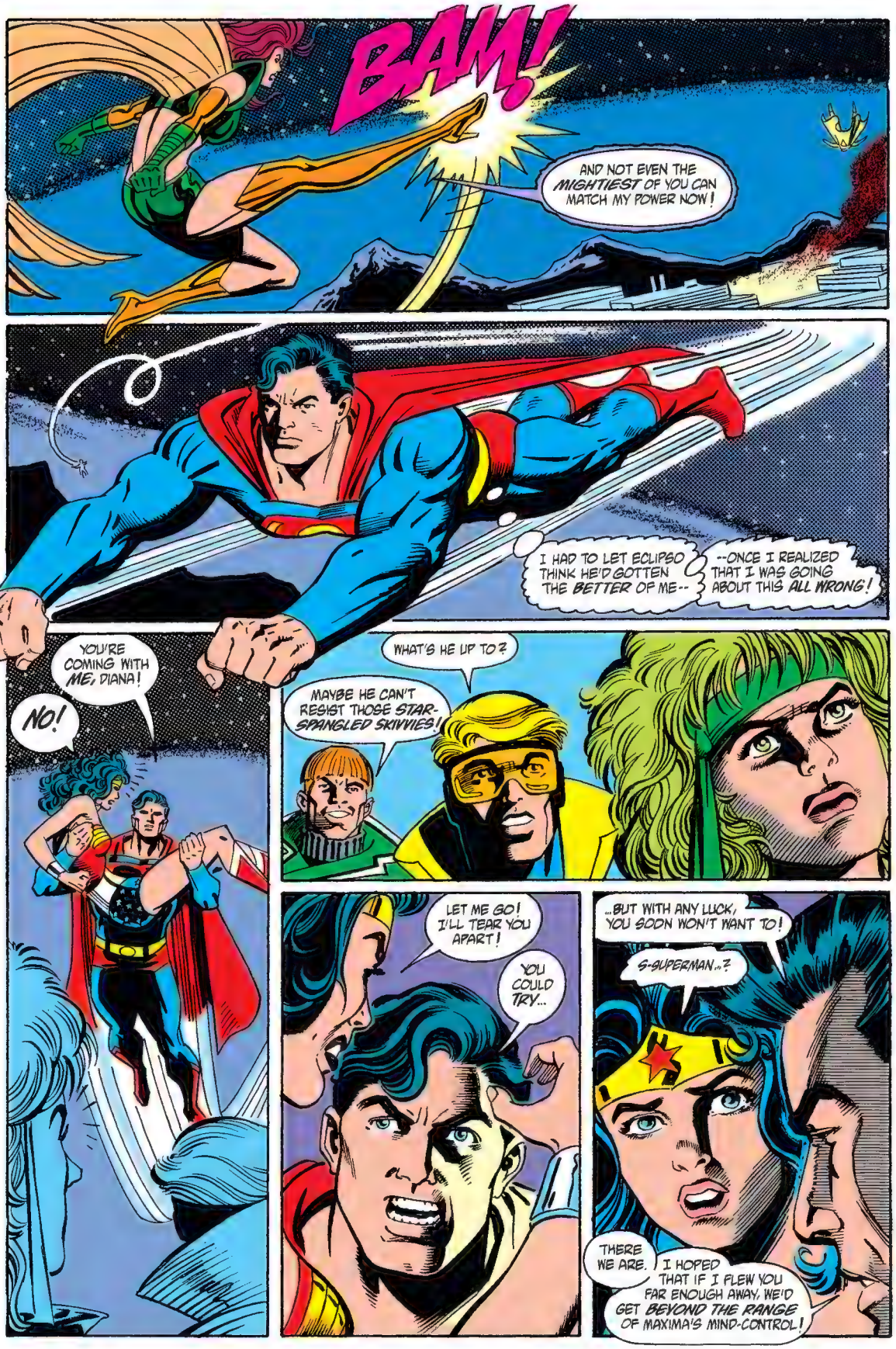
WHEW! THAT BLOWED UP REAL GOOD!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT TOOK ECLIPSO ALONG WITH IT!
HE'S GONE!
OR ELSE HE'S JUST LURKING AROUND THE NEXT CORNER!
BEST BET'S TO GET INTO MY BUG AND--
UHNNH...
WHO...?
REX!
HEY, OLD BUDDY, YOU OKAY?
P-PINNED... IN THE WRECKAGE...
YOU MUST'VE BEEN COMING TO THE RESCUE AND GOT CAUGHT IN THE BLAST!
YEAH... THINK YOU COULD GIVE ME A HAND? OR MAYBE...
...YOUR LIFE, BLUE BEETLE!
HUH?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE PINNED!
YOU ALSO BELIEVED I WAS METAMORPHO!
OH NO!
AND THAT WAS A DEADLY MISTAKE!


ALL RIGHT, GIVE IT UP, LADY! WE CAN TAKE WHATEVER YOU DISH OUT!
THAT'S NO LADY, BOOSTER... IT'S ECLIPSO!
I AM ECLIPSO --BUT WITH ALL OF MAXIMA'S POWERS!
BIG DEAL! YOU THINK YOU SCARE US?
BUT OF COURSE!
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU--
I SAID THAT I WOULD HAVE YOU, WONDER WOMAN...
...AND NOW YOU ARE MINE!
EYAAGH!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO HER, ECLIPSO, BUT I'M GONNA MAKE YOU UNDO IT...
...NOW!
IF THAT IS THE DREAM THAT YOU WISH TO TAKE TO YOUR GRAVE--
--SO BE IT!


WONDER WOMAN?!
HE--HE'S IN MY MIND!
IT'S MAXIMA'S PSIONIC POWER! FIGHT IT!
I CAN'T--!
I--
--WON'T!
WOK!
OHH!
BEATRIZ!
I'VE GOT HER, ICE!
HANG ON TIGHT, HOT STUFF!
YOU! YOU COULD HAVE KILLED HER!
BUT I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER--
NO, WHAT AM I SAYING?
YOU WERE ONLY ACTING UNDER MAXIMA'S-- ECLIPSO'S--CONTROL!
I'M SORRY, WONDER WOMAN, I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU!

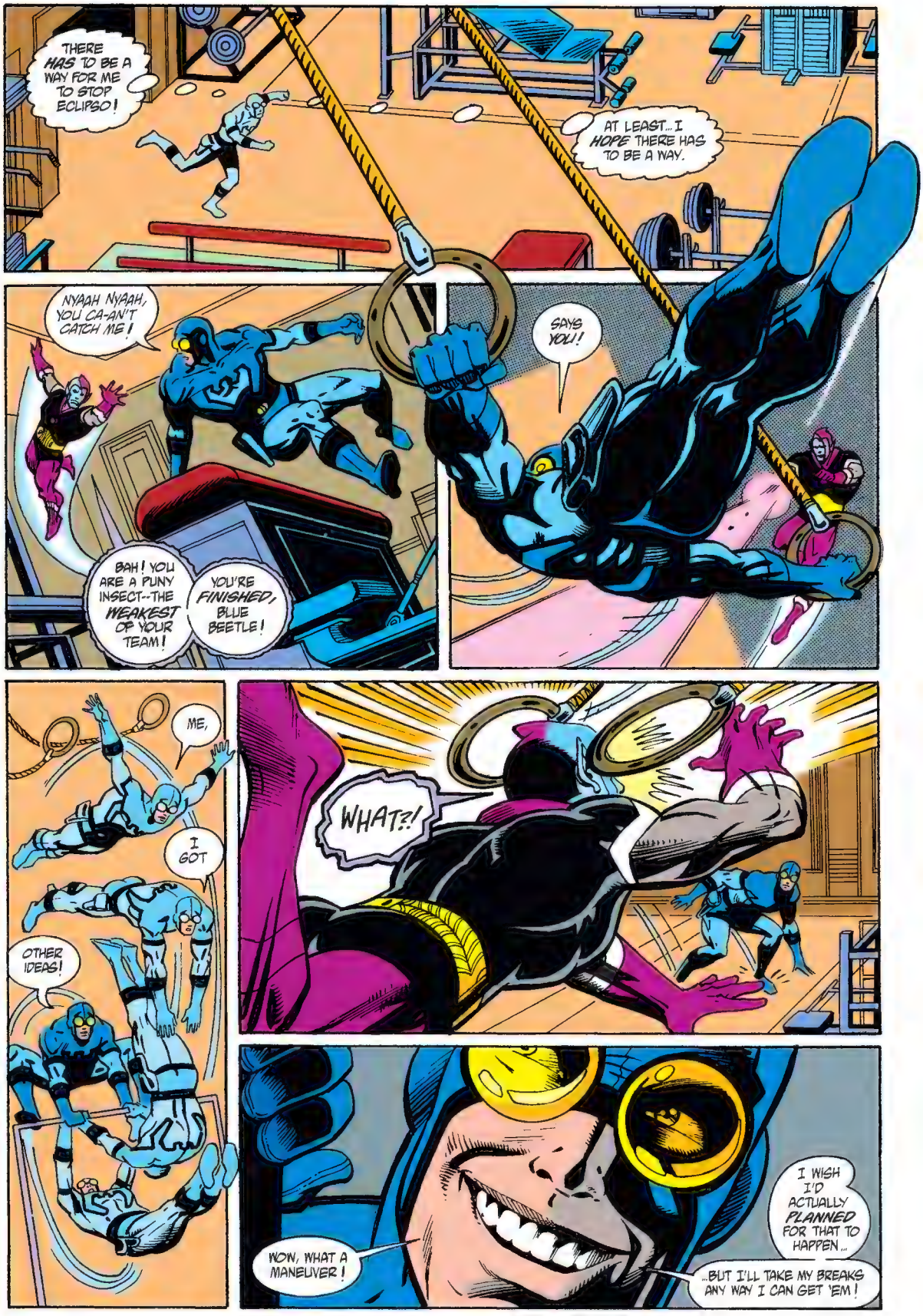

IN THAT CASE, ICE...
...YOU HAVE MADE A VERY COSTLY ERROR INDEED!
WHAT--?
NO!
BUT SINCE YOU DID SAY YOU WERE SORRY--
OOGH!
--YOUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE SWIFT!
HEY! WHADDYA THINK YOU'RE DOIN' TO HER?!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT WONDER WOMAN ON YOUR SIDE TOO, ECLIPSO...
BUT I CAN TAKE THE BOTH OF YA OUT WITH ONE--
STRIKE!


BACK OFF, GARDNER! THOSE ARE STILL OUR ALLIES DOWN THERE, NO MATTER WHO'S CONTROLLING THEM!
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE THAT GOES FOR WONDER CHICK--
--BUT PERSONALLY, I'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO LAY INTO MAXIMA FOR MONTHS!
I'LL DEAL WITH MAXIMA IN MY OWN WAY, GUY!
OH, WILL YOU, SUPERMAN?
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!
FOR STARTERS, I DOUBT VERY MUCH YOU CAN FIGHT ME HERE--
--AND MAINTAIN PSIONIC CONTROL OVER WONDER WOMAN AT THE SAME TIME!
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE ABOUT MAXIMA...
STAY ON YOUR GUARD! LOOK FOR AN OPENING!
I'M LOOKING! I'M JUST NOT FINDING!
...BUT ECLIPSO HAS NO SUCH DIFFICULTY!
UNGH!


BAM!
AND NOT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF YOU CAN MATCH MY POWER NOW!
I HAD TO LET ECLIPSO THINK HE'D GOTTEN THE BETTER OF ME--
--ONCE I REALIZED THAT I WAS GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, DIANA!
NO!
WHAT'S HE UP TO?
MAYBE HE CAN'T RESIST THOSE STAR-SPANGLED SKIVVIES!
LET ME GO! I'LL TEAR YOU APART!
YOU COULD TRY...
...BUT WITH ANY LUCK, YOU SOON WON'T WANT TO!
S-SUPERMAN...?
THERE WE ARE.
I HOPED THAT IF I FLEW YOU FAR ENOUGH AWAY, WE'D GET BEYOND THE RANGE OF MAXIMA'S MIND-CONTROL!

IT WAS IN NOT TAKING CONTROL OF THE MOST POWERFUL HERO OF ALL...
I SEE MY MISTAKE NOW.
SUPERMAN!
HEY, ECLIPSO...
...WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLIN' MOST POWERFUL!
NOOO!
SAY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WE DID IT!
LET'S HAUL HER BACK TO HEADQUARTERS AND SEE IF BEETLE'S GUN CAN REALLY KNOCK ECLIPSO OUT OF HER!

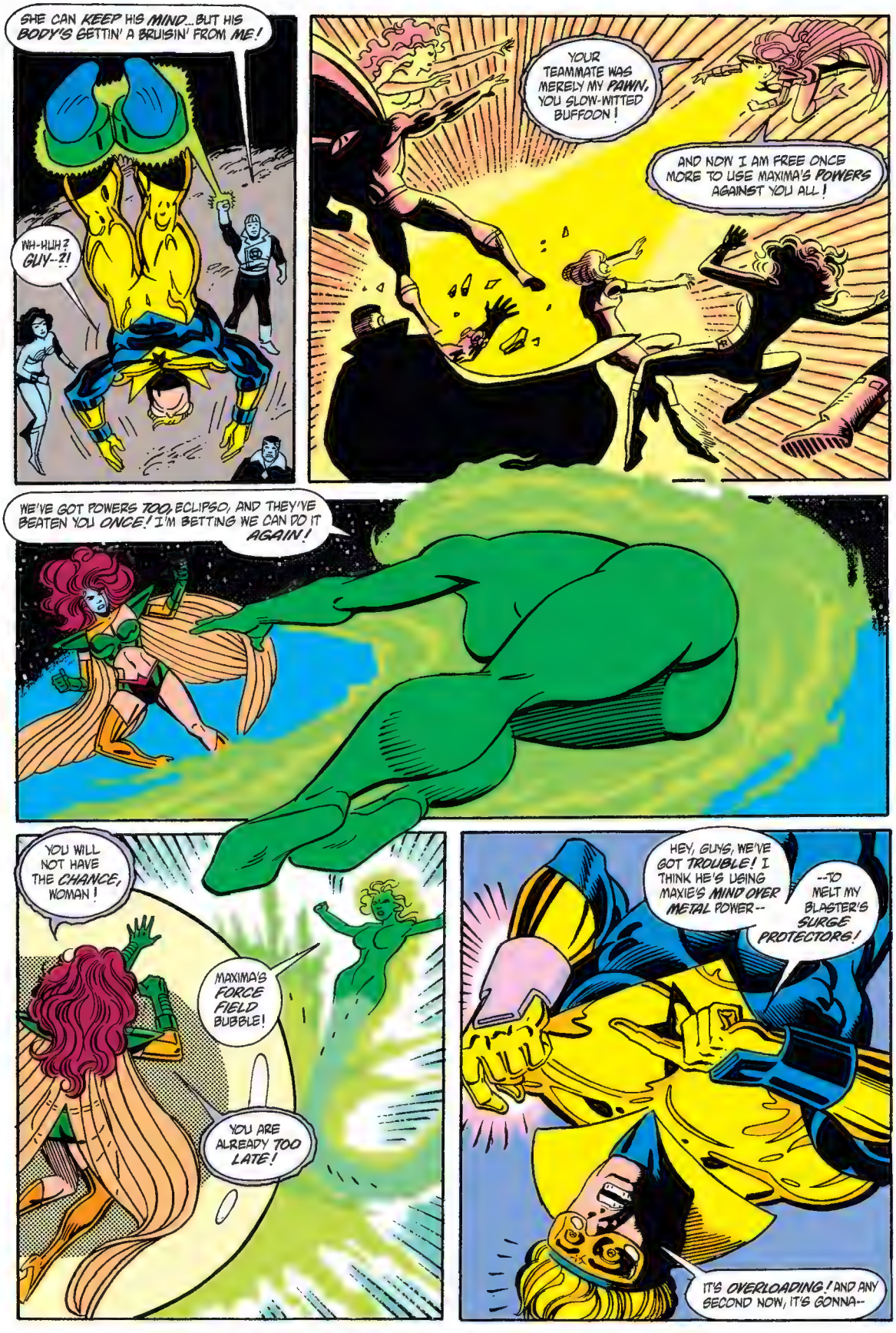
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! GOTTA MAKE IT TO THE BUG!
I CAN ONLY DODGE AND LEAP AND ESCAPE DOWN ELEVATOR SHAFTS FOR SO LONG!
AND HE STILL MIGHT BE JUST STEPS BEHIND ME, OR--
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, BEETLE!
I WAS AFRAID SOMEONE WAS GOING TO SAY THAT!
ZAAMSH
YOWZA!
WAITASECOND! WHAT'S WITH THE HAND BLASTS? ECLIPSO'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE POWERS LIKE THAT!
GORDON SAID..WHERE DID GORDON GO OFF TO ANYWAY?
FORGET IT! I'D BETTER JUST WORRY ABOUT STAYING ALIVE, NO MATTER WHAT POWERS ECLIPSO THROWS AT ME!
YO! LAUGHING BOY! FOG ROLLING IN!
YOU'RE GONNA BE FLYING BLIND!
STEAM RO
A MOMENTARY DELAY, BEETLE-- AMONG THE FEW MOMENTS YOU HAVE LEFT TO LIVE!

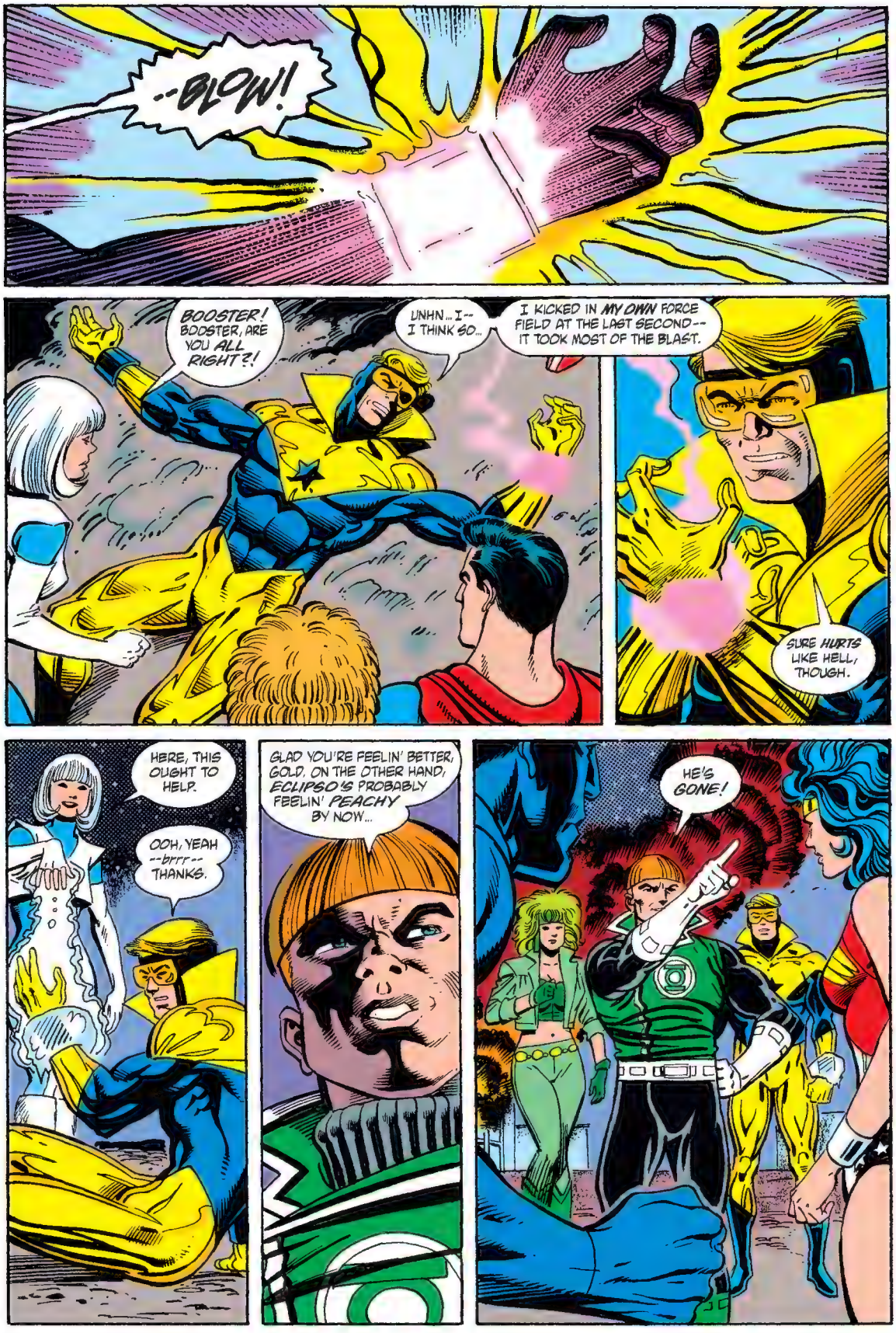

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY FOR ME TO STOP ECLIPSO!
AT LEAST... I HOPE THERE HAS TO BE A WAY.
NYAAH NYAAH, YOU CA-AN'T CATCH ME!
SAYS YOU!
BAH! YOU ARE A PUNY INSECT--THE WEAKEST OF YOUR TEAM!
YOU'RE FINISHED, BLUE BEETLE!
ME,
I GOT
OTHER IDEAS!
WHAT?!
WOW, WHAT A MANEUVER!
I WISH I'D ACTUALLY PLANNED FOR THAT TO HAPPEN...
...BUT I'LL TAKE MY BREAKS ANY WAY I CAN GET 'EM!

AND MAYBE NOW I CAN COME UP WITH A WAY TO PUT ON AN OFFENSE!
IF I CAN JUST FIND...
AHA!
KILOWOG'S TOOLBOX! I WAS SURE HE LEFT IT BEHIND WHEN HE WENT BACK TO PLAYING GREEN LANTERN!
THERE'S SOMETHING HE SHOWED ME ONCE--A KIND OF COSMIC ARC WELDER!
IF I CAN FIND IT IN HERE, THEN--
"COSMIC ARC WELDER"? YOU TRULY ARE PATHETIC.
GEE, THAT'S WHAT MY LAST THREE DATES SAID TOO. BUT I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS RATHER--
AAGHH!
--STUNNING!
SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS!
BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOMETHING BIGGER AND BETTER TO REALLY STOP ECLIPSO COLD!
AND IF I CAN JUST TIE INTO THE MAIN GENERATORS, I THINK I KNOW WHAT THAT SOMETHING IS!

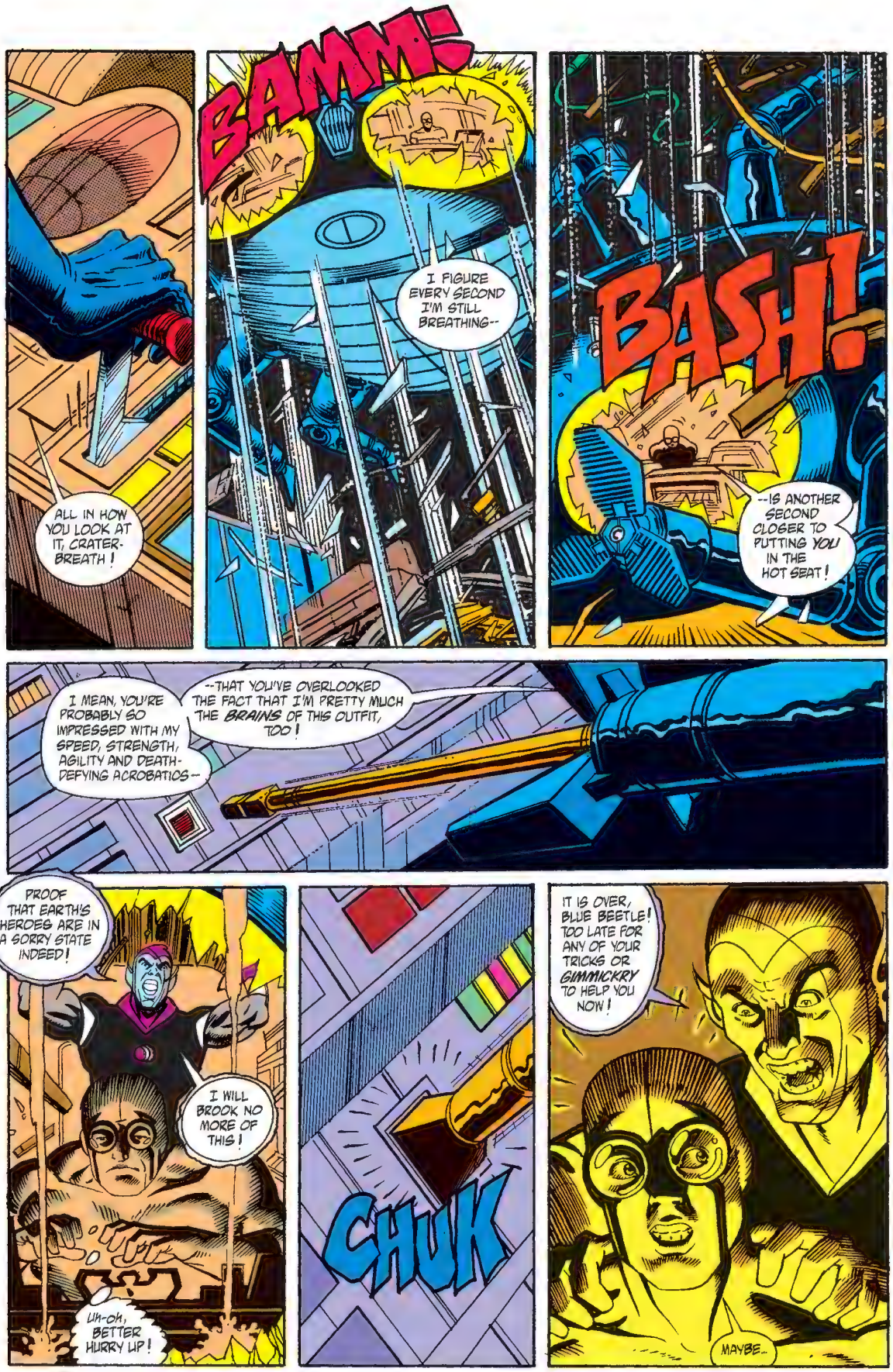
YEAH! THIS OUGHT TO DO IT!
OLD ECLIPSO'S GOT A LITTLE SURPRISE COMING!
BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND INTO MY BUG IN TIME TO--
TIME IS UP, BLUE BEETLE!
YEOW! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!
LUCKY THING HE DIDN'T WRECK THE MODULE I WAS WORKING ON!
BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP AHEAD OF HIM--EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON IT!
AND THE WAY THESE SUBLEVEL CORRIDORS BRANCH AND TWIST, I MIGHT HAVE A DECENT CHANCE OF GAINING THOSE EXTRA SECONDS!
GREAT! I'M ALMOST HOME FREE NOW!
I'LL BE SAFE ONCE I HOP UP INTO THE BUG!
I DON'T EVEN HEAR ECLIPSO BACK THERE! WONDER WHY HE'S NOT RIGHT ON MY--
ULP
OH.. THAT'S WHY.

SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH HER.. UH, HIM?
SHOULD WE TRY BEETLE'S GUN ON HIM ..HER...LIKE BOOSTER SAID?
THE RISING SUN WILL HAVE THE SAME EFFECT AS THE SOLAR GUN--DRIVING ECLIPSO FROM HIS HOST.
SO EITHER WAY WE HEAD BACK EAST--IF THE POP GUN DOESN'T DO THE JOB, AT LEAST THE SUN'LL BE UP SOONER IN NEW Y--
:ERK:
POW
WHAT FOOLS YOU MORTALS ARE!
CRUD! I THOUGHT SHE'D BE OUT FOR HOURS!
APPARENTLY ECLIPSO'S CONSCIOUSNESS WAS ABLE TO ROUSE MAXIMA'S BODY--
--AND USE HER POWER TO CONTROL BOOSTER'S MIND!


SHE CAN KEEP HIS MIND... BUT HIS BODY'S GETTIN' A BRUISIN' FROM ME!
WH-WUH? GUY--?!
YOUR TEAMMATE WAS MERELY MY PAWN, YOU SLOW-WITTED BUFFOON!
AND NOW I AM FREE ONCE MORE TO USE MAXIMA'S POWERS AGAINST YOU ALL!
WE'VE GOT POWERS TOO, ECLIPSO, AND THEY'VE BEATEN YOU ONCE! I'M BETTING WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!
YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE, WOMAN!
MAXIMA'S FORCE FIELD BUBBLE!
YOU ARE ALREADY TOO LATE!
HEY, GUYS, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE! I THINK HE'S USING MAXIE'S MIND OVER METAL POWER--
--TO MELT MY BLASTER'S SURGE PROTECTORS!
IT'S OVERLOADING! AND ANY SECOND NOW, IT'S GONNA--


--BLOW!
BOOSTER! BOOSTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
UNHN... I-- I THINK SO...
I KICKED IN MY OWN FORCE FIELD AT THE LAST SECOND-- IT TOOK MOST OF THE BLAST.
SURE HURTS LIKE HELL, THOUGH.
HERE, THIS OUGHT TO HELP.
OOH, YEAH --brrr-- THANKS.
GLAD YOU'RE FEELIN' BETTER, GOLD. ON THE OTHER HAND, ECLIPSO'S PROBABLY FEELIN' PEACHY BY NOW...
HE'S GONE!

I'M A GONER!
ECLIPSO'S GOT A GRIP LIKE IRON, AND ALL I'VE GOT IS--
ONE LAST CHANCE!
WHAT?!
IT WORKED! HE LOST HIS FOOTING WHEN THE BUG LURCHED FORWARD!
NOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THINGS IN MOTION...
CRAASSH
...AND HOPE THE U.N. TOOK OUT LOTS OF INSURANCE WHEN THEY PROMISED TO PAY FOR THE UPKEEP ON THIS PLACE!
IF YOUR GOAL IS TO MAKE A SHAMBLES OF THESE HEADQUARTERS--
--I COMMEND YOUR SUCCESS!
BUT IN TRUTH, YOU HAVE ONLY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE!

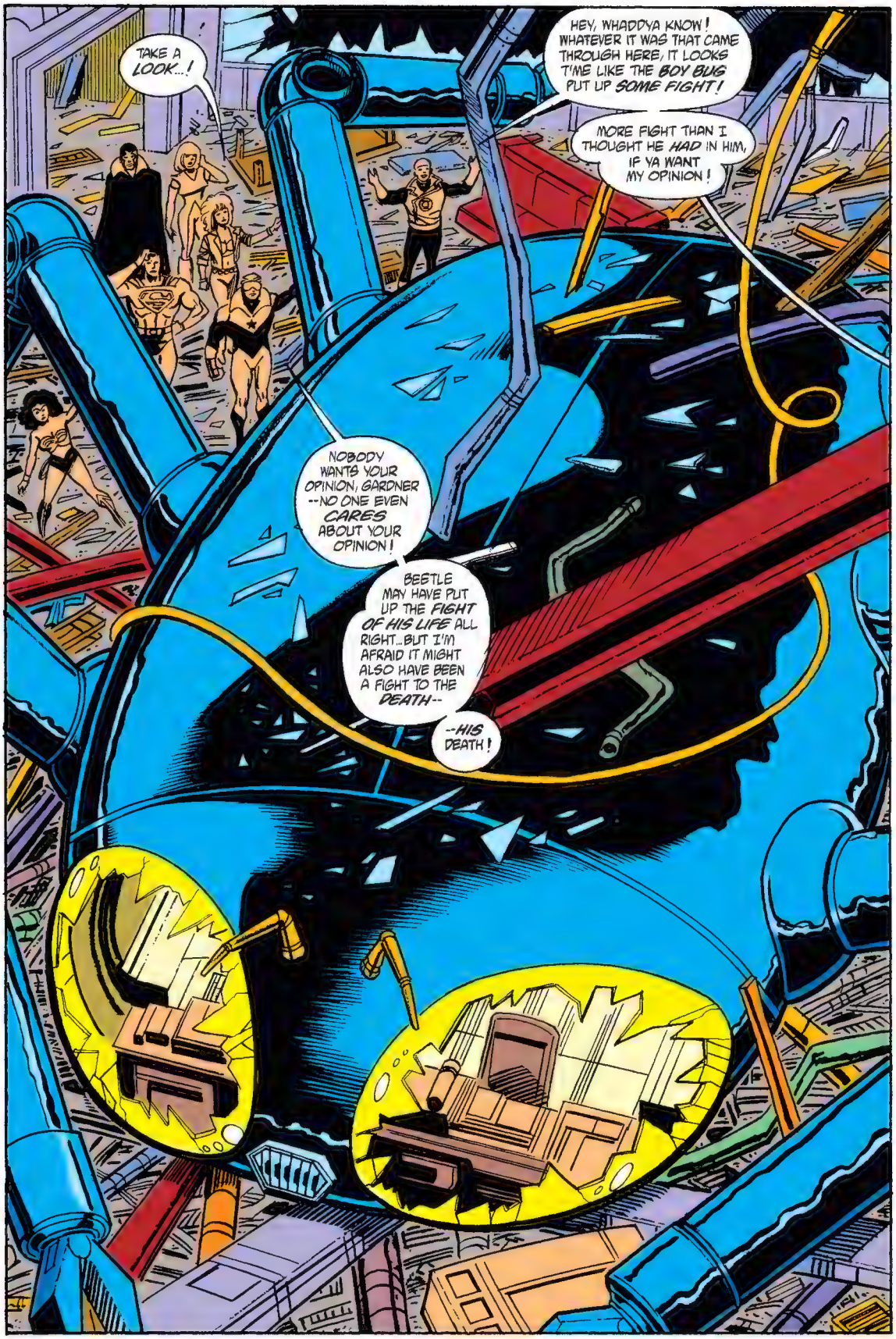

ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, CRATER-BREATH!
BAMM!
I FIGURE EVERY SECOND I'M STILL BREATHING--
BASH!
--IS ANOTHER SECOND CLOSER TO PUTTING YOU IN THE HOT SEAT!
I MEAN, YOU'RE PROBABLY SO IMPRESSED WITH MY SPEED, STRENGTH, AGILITY AND DEATH-DEFYING ACROBATICS--
--THAT YOU'VE OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT I'M PRETTY MUCH THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT, TOO!
PROOF THAT EARTH'S HEROES ARE IN A SORRY STATE INDEED!
I WILL BROOK NO MORE OF THIS!
UH-OH, BETTER HURRY UP!
CHUK
IT IS OVER, BLUE BEETLE! TOO LATE FOR ANY OF YOUR TRICKS OR GIMMICKRY TO HELP YOU NOW!
MAYBE...

...MAYBE NOT!
CLICK!
SHUNK!
WHAT HAVE YOU--?
OH...SO YOU'VE MANAGED TO RESTORE THIS BUILDING'S MAIN POWER.
NOT TO MENTION ALL THE LIGHTS!
SHUNK!
SHUNK!
IS THAT YOUR PLAN? DIDN'T GORDON TELL YOU THAT MERE ELECTRIC LIGHTS MEAN NOTHING TO ME?
AH, BUT THOSE AREN'T JUST ANY LIGHTS, CLIPSTER!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
SEE, I TAPPED INTO THE SOLAR COLLECTORS THAT POWER MY BUG--
--AND NOW THEY'RE HOOKED UP TO THE HEADQUARTERS' MAIN POWER SYSTEM!
WHICH MEANS...
WHICH MEANS THAT THIS ENTIRE COMPLEX WILL SOON BE BATHED IN SOLAR-POWERED ENERGY.

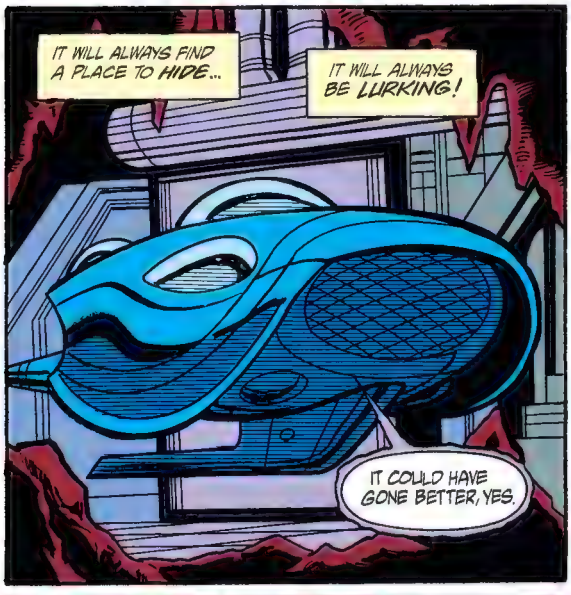
NO! YOU'RE BLUFFING!
YOU WANT TO STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT?
DIDN'T THINK SO.
SOMEDAY, BLUE BEETLE... SOMEDAY SOON...
...YOUR WISECRACKING MOUTH WILL BE PERMANENTLY SEALED--
--BY THE MOUNTAIN OF EARTH WITH WHICH I'LL COVER YOUR GRAVE!
YEAH. WELL, I'D STILL PREFER THAT PASTRAMI SANDWICH!
AND DON'T FORGET TO LOCK UP ON THE WAY OUT!
THIS HAS NOT GONE WELL. THAT POWERLESS INSECT COULD DRIVE ME AWAY...
...IT'S NEARLY UNTHINKABLE!
BUT I COULD NOT RISK LOSING POSSESSION OF STARMAN'S BODY.
AND I STILL HAVE MAXIMA AS WELL.
THEY WILL ALL FALL BEFORE ME YET!

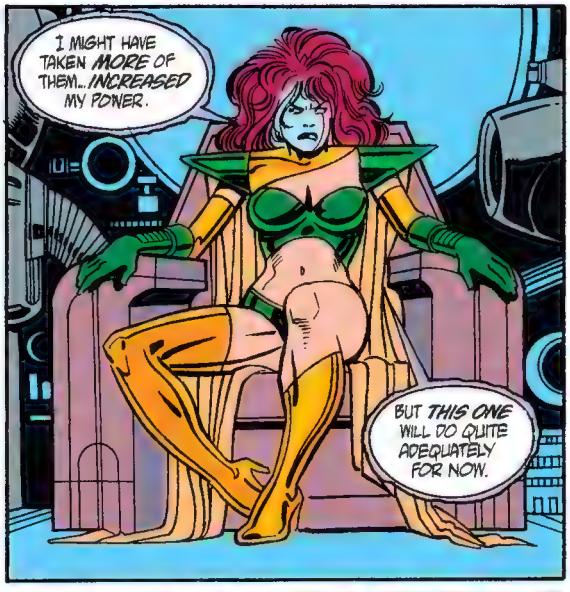
:whewww...:
THERE WAS A MOMENT THERE-- WELL, QUITE A FEW MOMENTS, ACTUALLY --WHEN I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO MAKE IT!
BUT I DID IT! I CHASED ECLIPSO OUT OF JLA HEADQUARTERS!
MADE KIND OF A MESS OF THINGS, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN LEAVING HIM IN CHARGE OF THE PLACE!
NOW, IF I CAN JUST START UP THE BUG AGAIN, I CAN AT LEAST CLEAR IT OUT OF HERE AND--
BEETLE! BLUE BEETLE!
HUH?
OH, IT'S YOU.
SAY, WE'D BETTER TALK ABOUT WHAT JUST--
WHA--?!
FLAASH!

HOW'S THAT WRIST FEELING NOW, BOOSTER?
AW, QUIT BABYIN' HIM ALREADY!
IN CASE YA FORGOT, HE'S THE ONE WHO LET MAXIMA GET AWAY!
THAT WASN'T BOOSTER'S FAULT, GUY.
AND REMEMBER, EVEN THOUGH WE LOST MAXIMA, WE DID PREVENT A HORRIBLE RADIATION LEAK!
BIG DEAL--SO THERE WOULDA BEEN A FEW MORE TWO-HEADED COWS IN THE WORLD.
PUT A LID ON IT, GARDNER ...NOW!
HEY, GOLD, YOU'RE FROM THE FUTURE. DOES IT SAY ANYWHERE HOW SUPERMAN DIES WHEN I STRANGLE HIM WITH HIS FANCY RED CAPE?
SORRY, GUY, THE RECORDS FROM THIS ERA ARE--
WHOA! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!
THIS HAS TO BE ECLIPSO'S HANDIWORK!
OUR BATTLE WITH MAXIMA MAY HAVE BEEN JUST A DIVERSION FROM HIS TRUE PURPOSE!
BUT WHERE'S BLUE BEETLE? AND PROFESSOR GORDON?
I...I THINK WE MIGHT FIND SOME OF THE ANSWERS INSIDE...

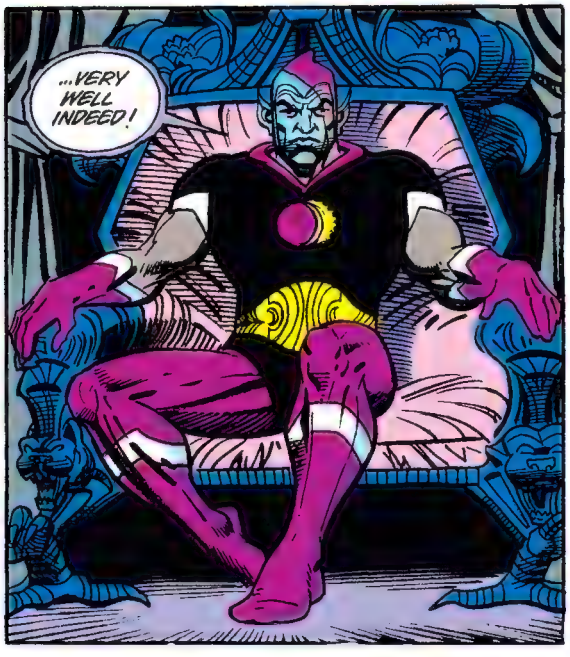

TAKE A LOOK...!
HEY, WHADDYA KNOW! WHATEVER IT WAS THAT CAME THROUGH HERE, IT LOOKS T'ME LIKE THE BOY BUG PUT UP SOME FIGHT!
MORE FIGHT THAN I THOUGHT HE HAD IN HIM, IF YA WANT MY OPINION!
NOBODY WANTS YOUR OPINION, GARDNER --NO ONE EVEN CARES ABOUT YOUR OPINION!
BEETLE MAY HAVE PUT UP THE FIGHT OF HIS LIFE ALL RIGHT...BUT I'M AFRAID IT MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH--
--HIS DEATH!

OUTSIDE, ANOTHER DARK NIGHT ENDS...
...AS DAWN SPREADS ITS RAYS ALONG AMERICA'S EAST COAST.
BUT THE DEEPEST DARKNESS--THE DARKNESS IN THE HUMAN SOUL--CAN NEVER BE COMPLETELY BANISHED.

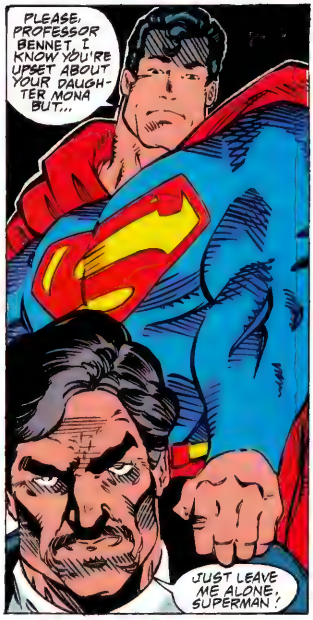

IT WILL ALWAYS FIND A PLACE TO HIDE...
IT WILL ALWAYS BE LURKING!
IT COULD HAVE GONE BETTER, YES.


I MIGHT HAVE TAKEN MORE OF THEM...INCREASED MY POWER.
BUT THIS ONE WILL DO QUITE ADEQUATELY FOR NOW.

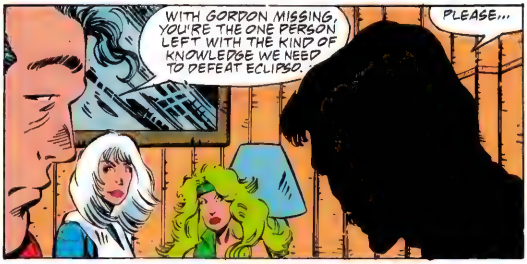
BLUE BEETLE WAS A MINOR SETBACK AFTER ALL.
MY PLAN SURVIVES, AND IT IS GOING WELL...


...VERY WELL INDEED!

THIS IS STUPID!
ECLIPSO IS TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN AND THE ONE GUY LEFT THAT CAN HELP US SAYS HE'S DEPRESSED.
BE QUIET, BOOSTER.
SHUT UP!
ALL OF YOU, JUST SHUT UP!

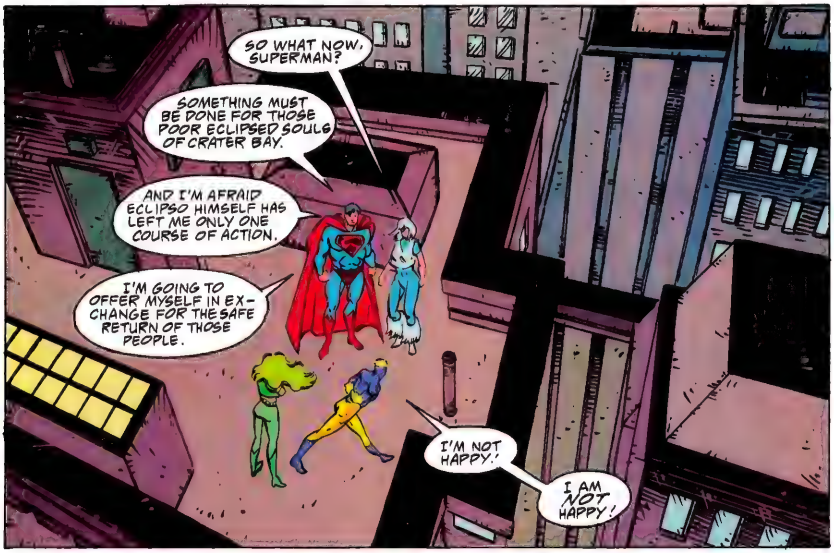

PLEASE, PROFESSOR BENNET, I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER MONA BUT...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, SUPERMAN!

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU PEOPLE?
YOU'RE THE ONES THAT DRESS UP LIKE HEROES AND SAVE THE WORLD. WHAT DO YOU NEED ME FOR?

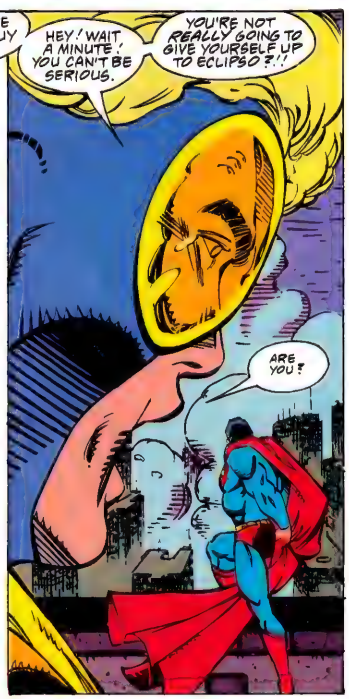

WITH GORDON MISSING, YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON LEFT WITH THE KIND OF KNOWLEDGE WE NEED TO DEFEAT ECLIPSO.
PLEASE...

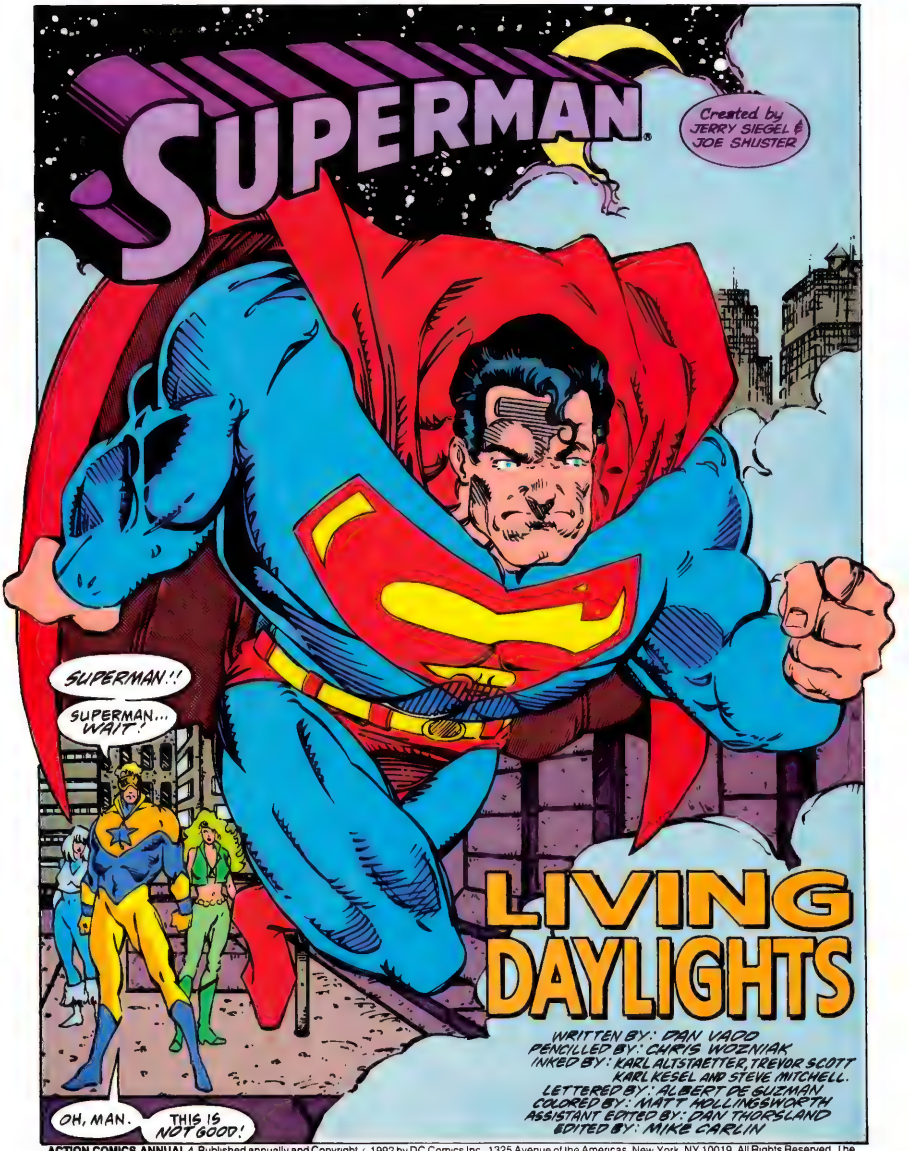
...I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS RIGHT NOW.

LOOK, I KNOW I'M LETTING YOU DOWN, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU.
IF I KNEW WHERE GORDON WAS, I'D TELL YOU.
IF I THOUGHT I COULD HELP YOU WITH ECLIPSO, I WOULD.
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING!
NOW PLEASE, JUST GO.
PROFESSOR...
LOOK, PAL, THERE'S A LOT AT STAKE HERE. YOU CAN'T JUST QUIT.
I THINK THE PROFESSOR HAS MADE UP HIS MIND, BOOSTER. WE HAD BETTER BE GOING.
BUT SUPERMAN...
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOOSTER!
ENOUGH?!
I'M SICK OF THESE GUYS RUNNING TO US EVERY TIME THEY HAVE A PROBLEM. BUT WHENEVER WE NEED THEM THEY ALWAYS LET US DOWN!
I SAID ZIP IT, BOOSTER!
IF YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR MIND, PROFESSOR...
YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.
COME ON THEN, PEOPLE.
WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO... AND NOT MUCH TIME LEFT TO DO IT.
BUT...
ZIP IT, BOOSTER.
I'M SORRY.
K-TUNK
I'M... SORRY...


SO WHAT NOW, SUPERMAN?
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE FOR THOSE POOR ECLIPSED SOULS OF CRATER BAY.
AND I'M AFRAID ECLIPSO HIMSELF HAS LEFT ME ONLY ONE COURSE OF ACTION.
I'M GOING TO OFFER MYSELF IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF THOSE PEOPLE.
I'M NOT HAPPY.
I AM NOT HAPPY!

AND AFTER I BECOME ECLIPSED...
...IT'S GOING TO BE UP TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER ECLIPSO TRIES WITH ME IN HIS GRASP.
OBVIOUSLY I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR ATTACK... AS THAT WOULD JUST TIP ECLIPSO OFF ONCE HE POSSESSED ME.
THE NERVE OF THAT GUY TO--!


HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO GIVE YOURSELF UP TO ECLIPSO?!
ARE YOU?


SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
SUPERMAN!!
SUPERMAN... WAIT!
OH, MAN.
THIS IS NOT GOOD!
LIVING DAYLIGHTS
WRITTEN BY: DAN VADO
PENCILLED BY: CHRIS WOZNIAK
INKED BY: KARL ALTSTAETTER, TREVOR SCOTT KARL KESEL AND STEVE MITCHELL.
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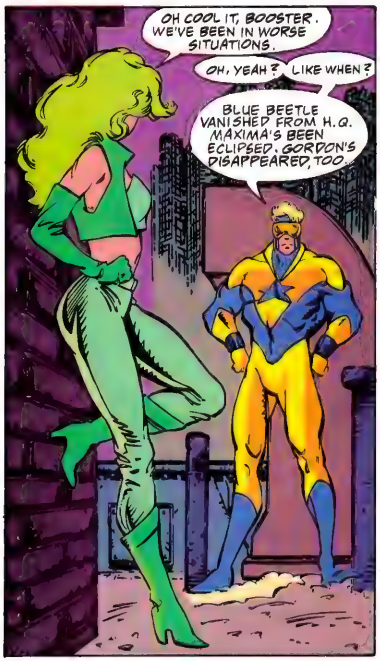

OH COOL IT, BOOSTER. WE'VE BEEN IN WORSE SITUATIONS.
OH, YEAH? LIKE WHEN?
BLUE BEETLE VANISHED FROM H.Q. MAXIMA'S BEEN ECLIPSED. GORDON'S DISAPPEARED, TOO.

AND NOW SUPERMAN'S OFF TO MAKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.
GEEZ, NO WONDER BENNET'S DEPRESSED.
I'M BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS THAT WE CAN MAKE A DENT IN THIS ECLIPSO JERK, TOO!
YOU'RE LETTING YOURSELF GET CARRIED AWAY, BOOSTER.
SINCE I JOINED THE LEAGUE THE END OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN A TWICE MONTHLY EVENT.
WE'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO COPE WITH WHATEVER WAS THROWN AT US.
AND WE'VE DONE FINE WITHOUT MR. HOTSHOT SUPERMAN'S HELP UNTIL NOW.'

TRUE.
BUT WE'VE NEVER HAD TO FIGHT SUPERMAN UNTIL NOW EITHER.

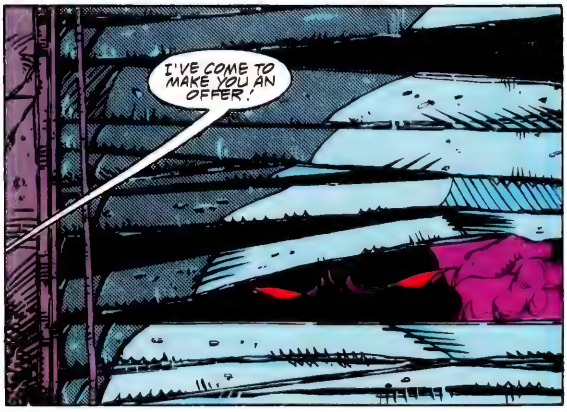
OKAY, BOOSTER... YOU'VE HAD YOUR SAY...
...NOW I SAY WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO... AND NOT MUCH TIME LEFT TO DO IT.
AND IF WE'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH AN ECLIPSED SUPERMAN...

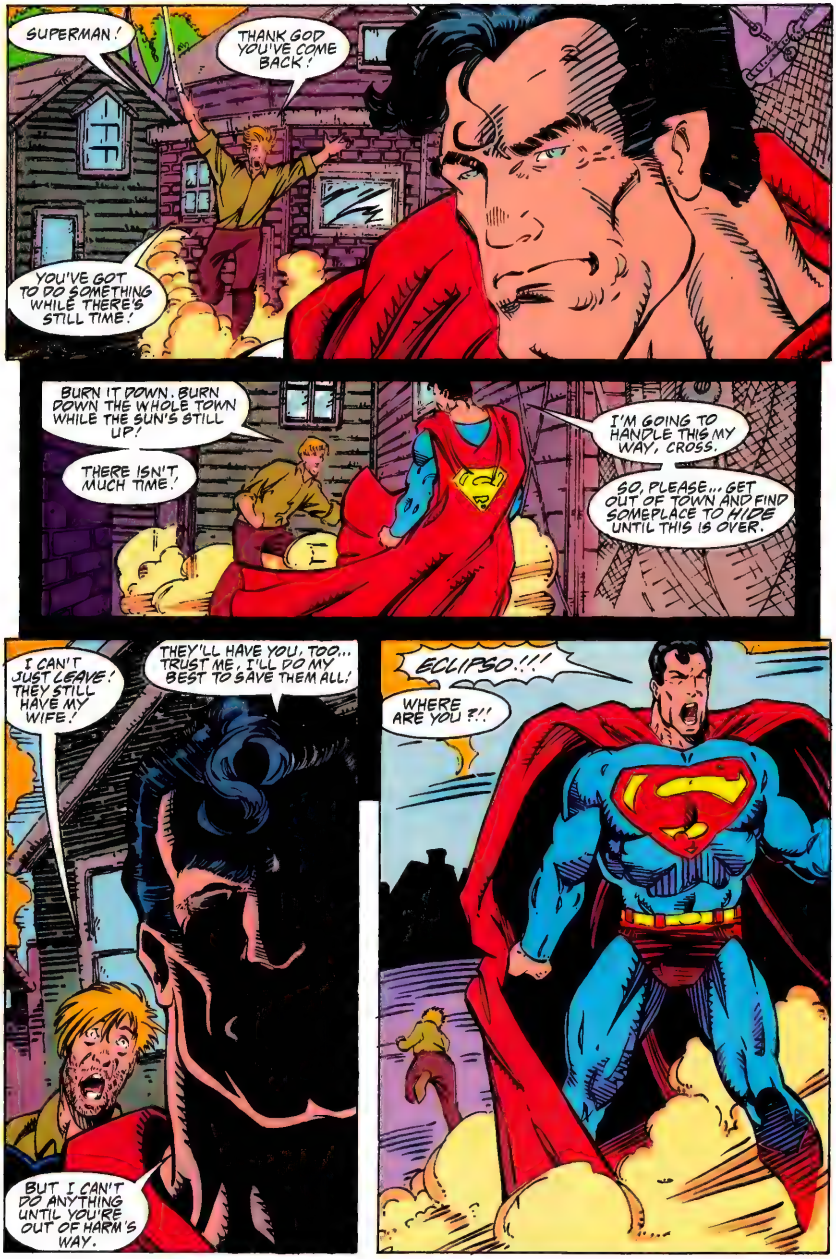
"WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME HIGH-POWERED HELP!"
HAMILTON AND I HAVE BEEN GOING OVER SOME OF DOCTOR GORDON'S DESIGNS...
...AND WE CAME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT SHOULD SUIT YOUR NEEDS.
WHAT IS IT, MR. LUTHOR?
IT'S A BLOODY BIG SOLAR TRAP.
BOY, I'LL SAY!
THIS THING LOOKS LIKE IT COULD LIGHT UP HALF OF METROPOLIS.
IT MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE TO... IF IT WORKS.
WHICH I'M AFRAID IS SOMETHING WE CANNOT GUARANTEE.
WHAT!!!
GORDON'S SOLAR TRAP IS ONLY IN THE PROTOTYPE STAGE.
THIS THING IS A QUICKIE SPIT AND CHEWING GUM COPY OF GORDON'S ORIGINAL DESIGN. WE HAVEN'T TESTED OURS YET.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE POWER SURGE NEEDED TO WORK THE DARN THING COULD BURN OUT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

THIS THING'S ENORMOUS! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO MOVE IT?
I'VE GOT THAT COVERED.
I CONTACTED SOMEONE WHO CAN MOVE THIS THING AND GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH SUPERMAN... IF NECESSARY.
I DON'T KNOW.
I'M STILL NOT HAPPY.
SHUT... UP... BOOSTER.
LOOKS LIKE THE SUN IS STARTING TO SET.
YOU FOLKS HAD BETTER BE GOING.
I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T BE OF MORE ASSISTANCE.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
THANK YOU, MR. LUTHOR... WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT...
"...'CAUSE IT'S ALMOST ECLIPSO TIME AGAIN."

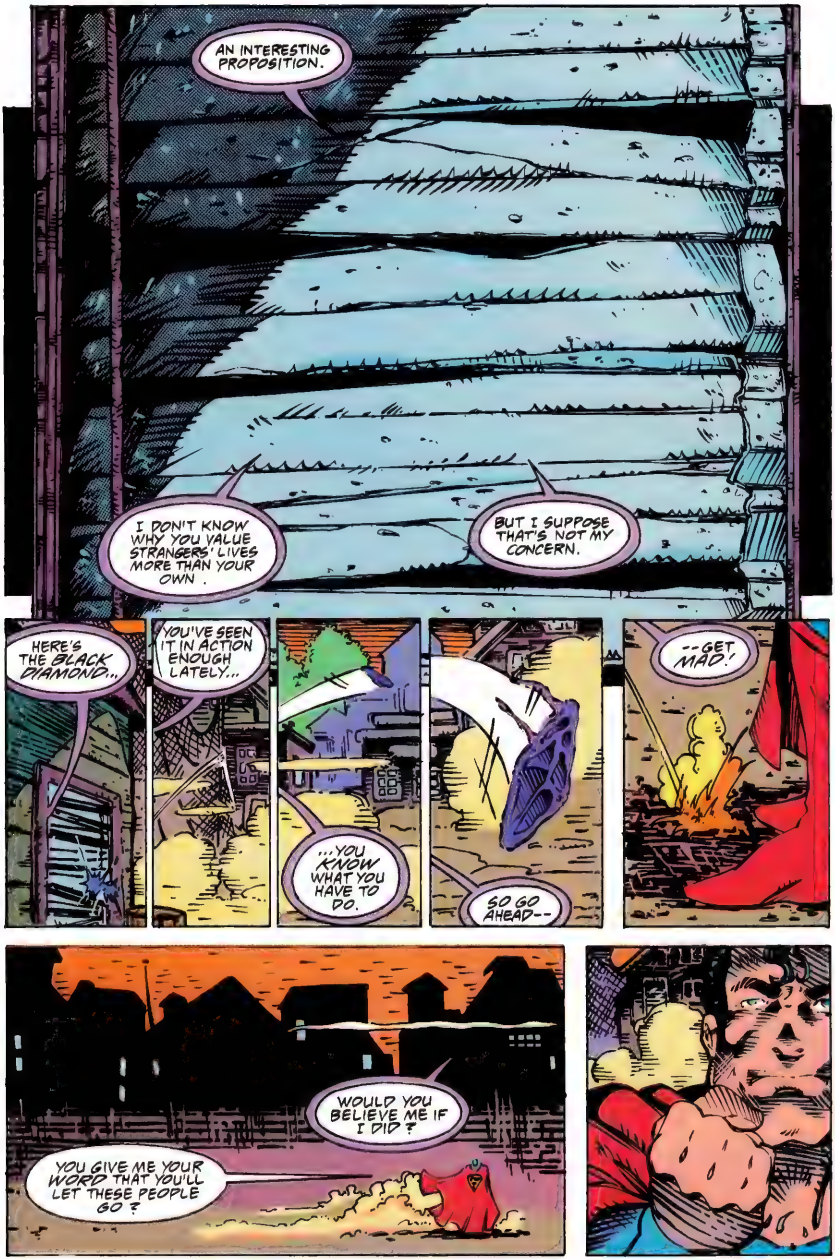
ECLIPSO!!!

I KNOW YOU'RE STILL HERE, ECLIPSO!


I'VE COME TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER.


SUPERMAN!
THANK GOD YOU'VE COME BACK!
YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
BURN IT DOWN. BURN DOWN THE WHOLE TOWN WHILE THE SUN'S STILL UP!
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!
I'M GOING TO HANDLE THIS MY WAY, CROSS.
SO, PLEASE... GET OUT OF TOWN AND FIND SOMEPLACE TO HIDE UNTIL THIS IS OVER.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE! THEY STILL HAVE MY WIFE!
THEY'LL HAVE YOU, TOO... TRUST ME, I'LL DO MY BEST TO SAVE THEM ALL!
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL YOU'RE OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
ECLIPSO!!!
WHERE ARE YOU?!!

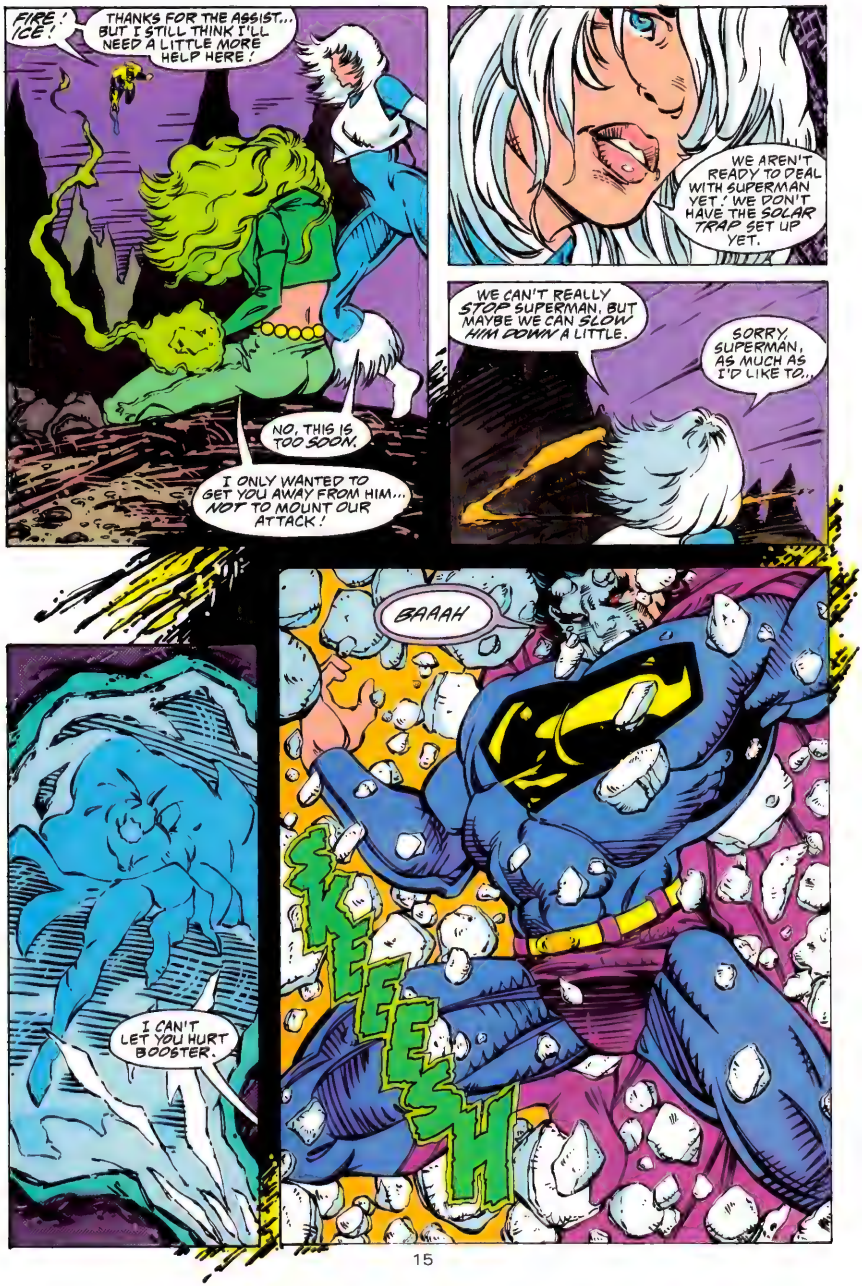
I'M RIGHT HERE, SUPERMAN.
AND AS SOON AS THE SUN SETS...
...I'LL BE ALL OVER YOU!
I'VE COME TO MAKE YOU A DEAL, ECLIPSO!
I DON'T MAKE DEALS, SUPERMAN.
YOU'LL MAKE THIS ONE.
LET THE PEOPLE OF CRATER BAY GO...
...AND YOU CAN HAVE ME IN THEIR PLACE.

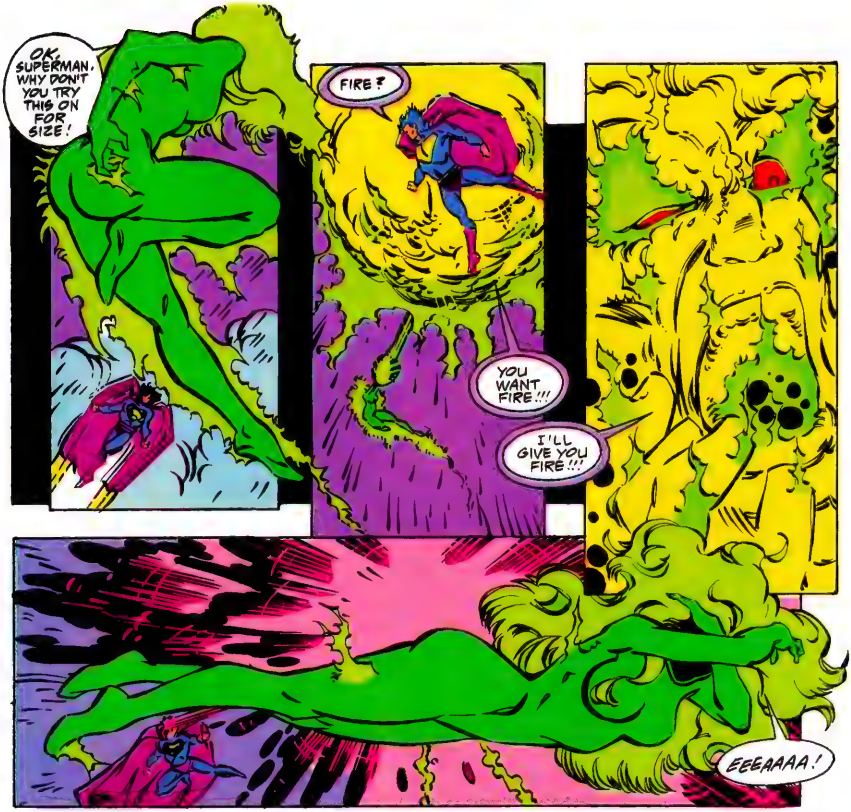

AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU VALUE STRANGERS' LIVES MORE THAN YOUR OWN.
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S NOT MY CONCERN.
HERE'S THE BLACK DIAMOND...
YOU'VE SEEN IT IN ACTION ENOUGH LATELY...
...YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
SO GO AHEAD--
--GET MAD!
YOU GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU'LL LET THESE PEOPLE GO?
WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I DID?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUPERMAN? AREN'T YOU ANGRY YET?
DOESN'T THE ABSOLUTE HOPELESSNESS OF THE SITUATION BOTHER YOU?
DOESN'T SURRENDERING TO ME MAKE YOU RESENTFUL?
HOW ABOUT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT I MIGHT DO WITH YOUR BODY?
MAYBE I'LL MAKE YOU KILL SOMEONE.
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL...
USELESS?!

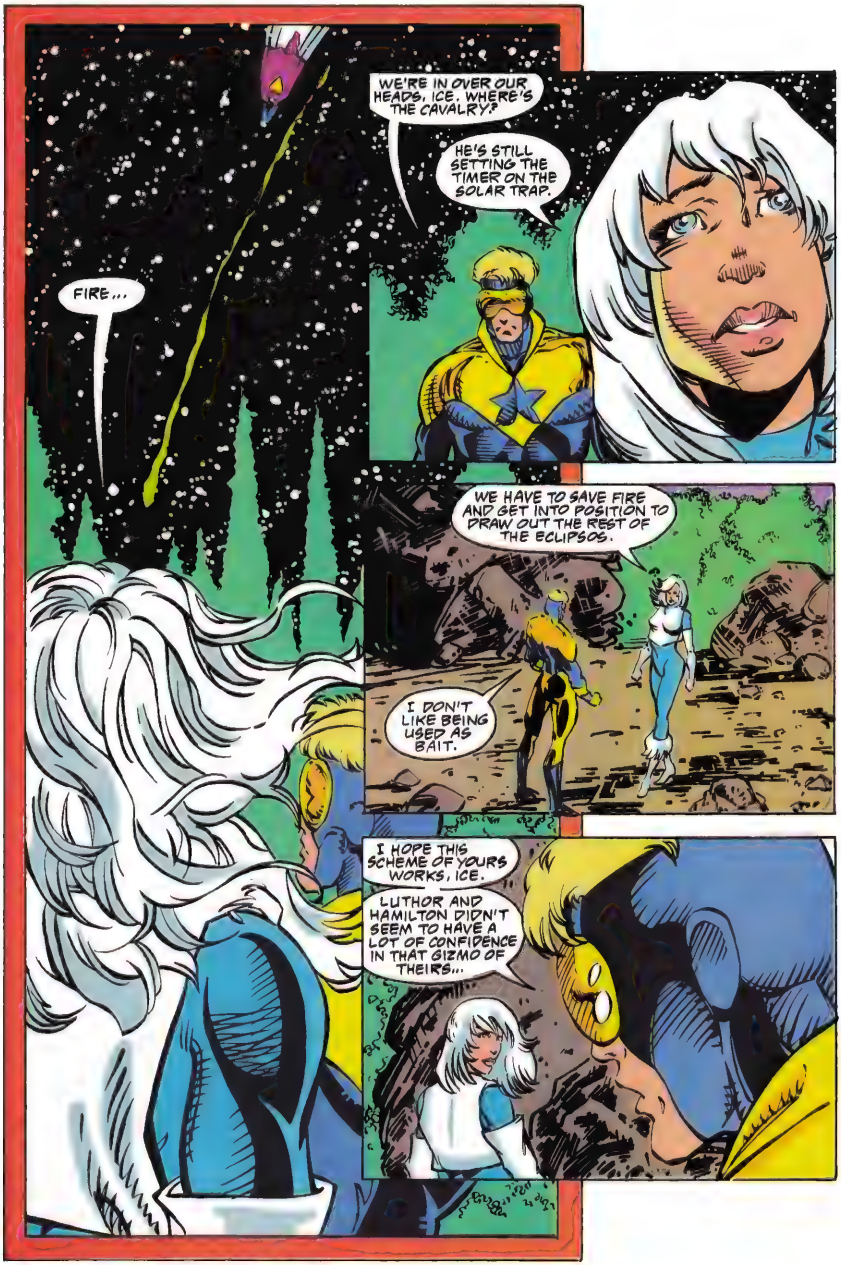
SUPERMAN! I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU IN TIME!
ICE CAME UP WITH A PRETTY GOOD PLAN FOR DEALING WITH ECLIPSO, SO THERE'S NO REASON TO...
GIVE YOURSELF UP...
KWAM!
UH OH.
:HOARK:!

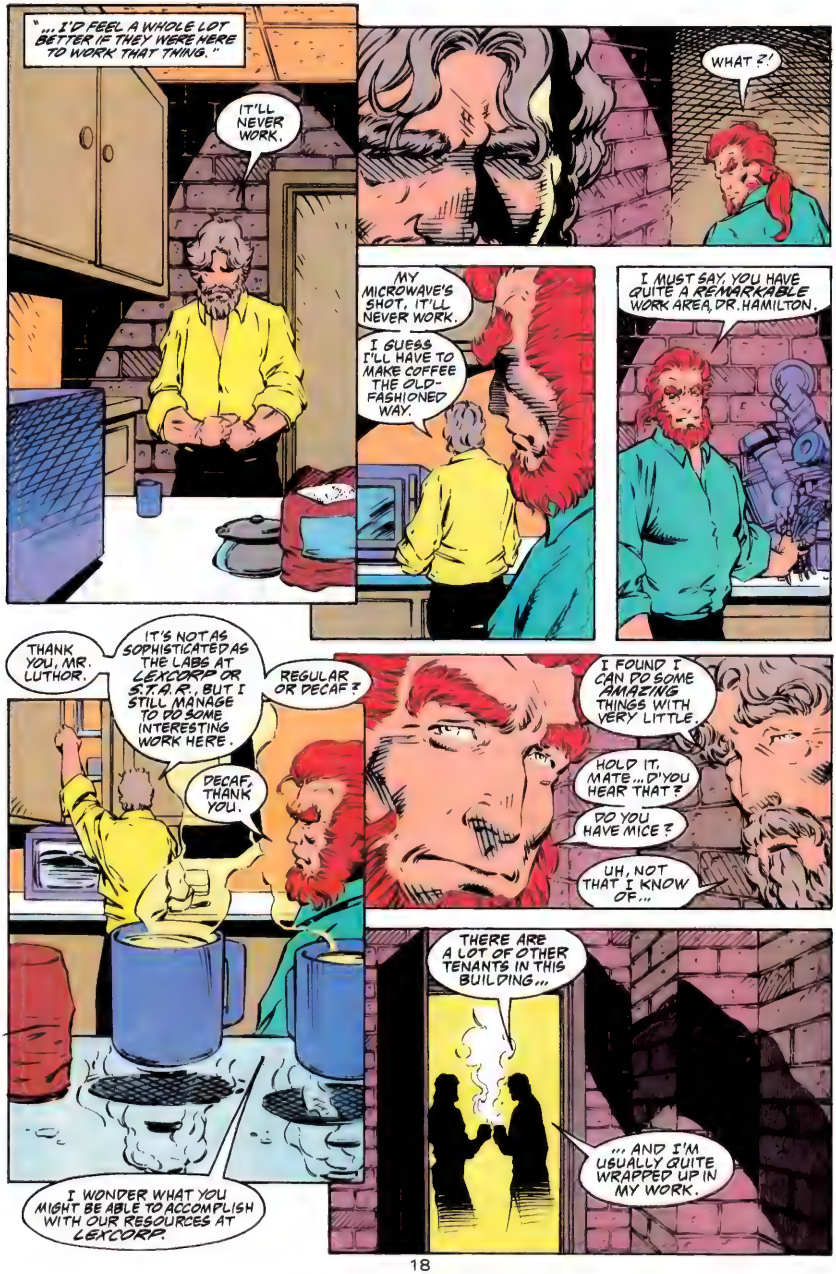
SUPERMAN WAS WISE NOT TO DISCUSS YOUR PLAN WITH YOU.
IT ACTUALLY MAKES THIS SOMETHING OF A CHALLENGE.
NORMALLY I WOULD POSSESS YOU, BUT I'M AFRAID I PROMISED SUPERMAN I WOULD KILL SOMEONE.
GOODBYE BOOSTER.
NOOOO.!
-GAAAA.!-
WHAT.! WHO WAS THAT?!!
OH... THANK GOD.!


FIRE!
ICE!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST... BUT I STILL THINK I'LL NEED A LITTLE MORE HELP HERE!
NO, THIS IS TOO SOON.
I ONLY WANTED TO GET YOU AWAY FROM HIM... NOT TO MOUNT OUR ATTACK!
WE AREN'T READY TO DEAL WITH SUPERMAN YET! WE DON'T HAVE THE SOLAR TRAP SET UP YET.
WE CAN'T REALLY STOP SUPERMAN, BUT MAYBE WE CAN SLOW HIM DOWN A LITTLE.
SORRY, SUPERMAN, AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO...
I CAN'T LET YOU HURT BOOSTER.
BAAAH
KEEESH

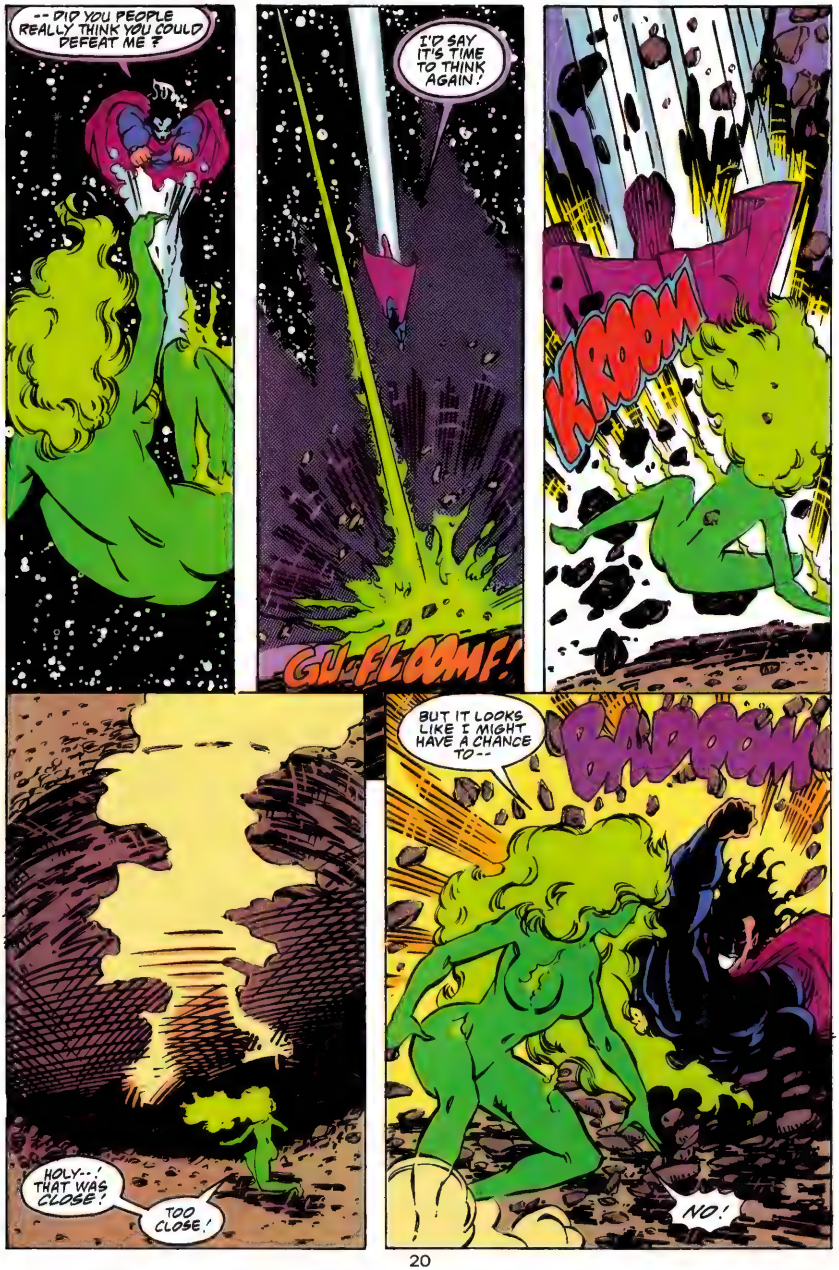

OK, SUPERMAN. WHY DON'T YOU TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!
FIRE?
YOU WANT FIRE!!!
I'LL GIVE YOU FIRE!!!
EEEAAAA!

PATHETIC WASTES!
YOU ALL DESERVE TO DIE.


FIRE...
WE'RE IN OVER OUR HEADS, ICE. WHERE'S THE CAVALRY?
HE'S STILL SETTING THE TIMER ON THE SOLAR TRAP.
WE HAVE TO SAVE FIRE AND GET INTO POSITION TO DRAW OUT THE REST OF THE ECLIPSOS.
I DON'T LIKE BEING USED AS BAIT.
I HOPE THIS SCHEME OF YOURS WORKS, ICE.
LUTHOR AND HAMILTON DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN THAT GIZMO OF THEIRS...

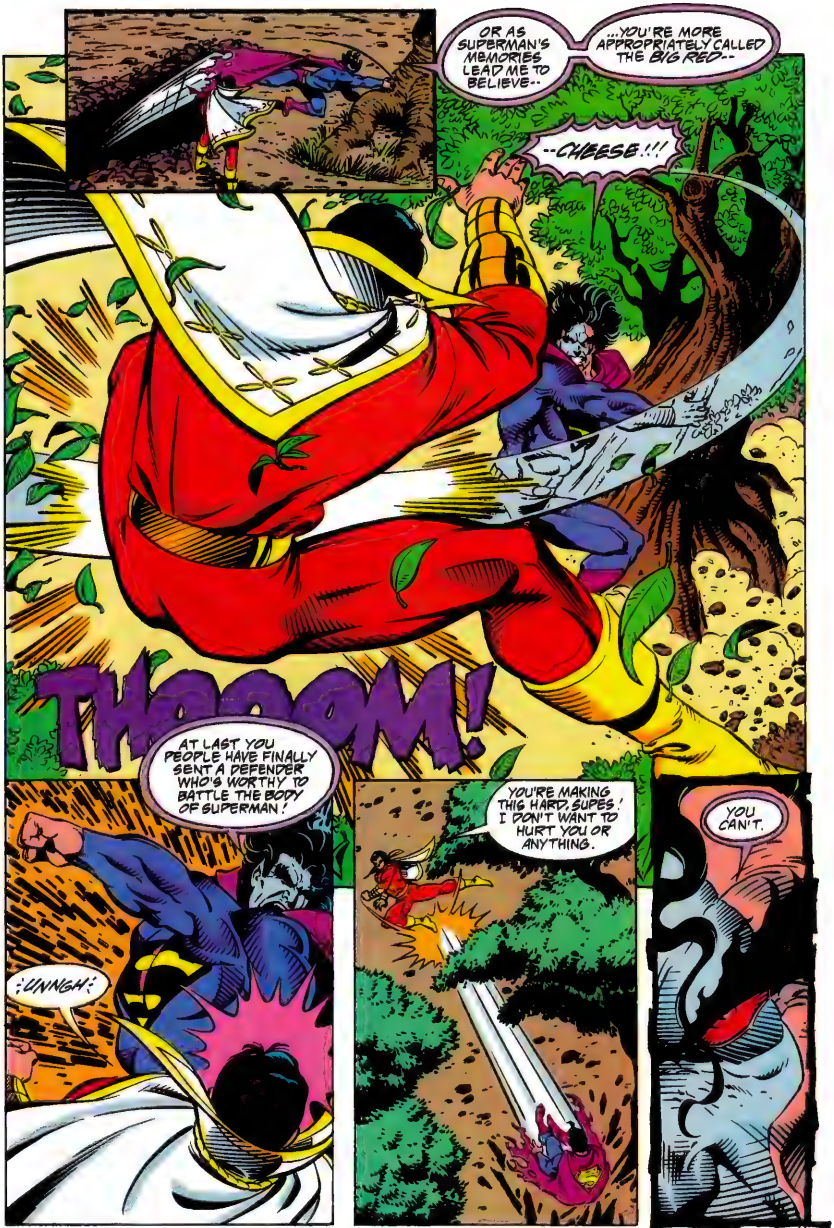

"... I'D FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER IF THEY WERE HERE TO WORK THAT THING."
IT'LL NEVER WORK.
WHAT?!
MY MICROWAVE'S SHOT, IT'LL NEVER WORK.
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE COFFEE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
I MUST SAY, YOU HAVE QUITE A REMARKABLE WORK AREA, DR. HAMILTON.
THANK YOU, MR. LUTHOR.
IT'S NOT AS SOPHISTICATED AS THE LABS AT LEXCORP OR S.T.A.R., BUT I STILL MANAGE TO DO SOME INTERESTING WORK HERE.
REGULAR OR DECAF?
DECAF, THANK YOU.
I FOUND I CAN DO SOME AMAZING THINGS WITH VERY LITTLE.
HOLD IT, MATE... D'YOU HEAR THAT?
DO YOU HAVE MICE?
UH, NOT THAT I KNOW OF...
I WONDER WHAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH OUR RESOURCES AT LEXCORP.
THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER TENANTS IN THIS BUILDING...
... AND I'M USUALLY QUITE WRAPPED UP IN MY WORK.

ANYWAY, I'VE ALREADY WORKED WITH BOTH S.T.A.R. AND LEXCORP... AND IT DIDN'T WORK OUT TOO WELL.
CREAM OR SUGAR?
BLACK... AS LONG AS I CAN'T GET FLAT WHITE LIKE I USED TO BACK HOME IN OZ... AUSTRALIA, I MEAN.
--AND AS FAR AS S.T.A.R. IS CONCERNED, LET'S JUST SAY I'M NOT VERY GOOD IN A CORPORATE ATMOSPHERE.
I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT I'M MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE AND PRODUCTIVE WORKING ON MY OWN.
I'M AWARE OF YOUR PROBLEMS WITH MY FATHER.
BESIDES, YOUR FATHER FIRED ME FROM LEXCORP--
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HEAR SOMETHI--
GOT YOU!
WHAT--?
GOOD HEAVENS!
"WHEN WILL YOU PEOPLE SEE THE LIGHT--"

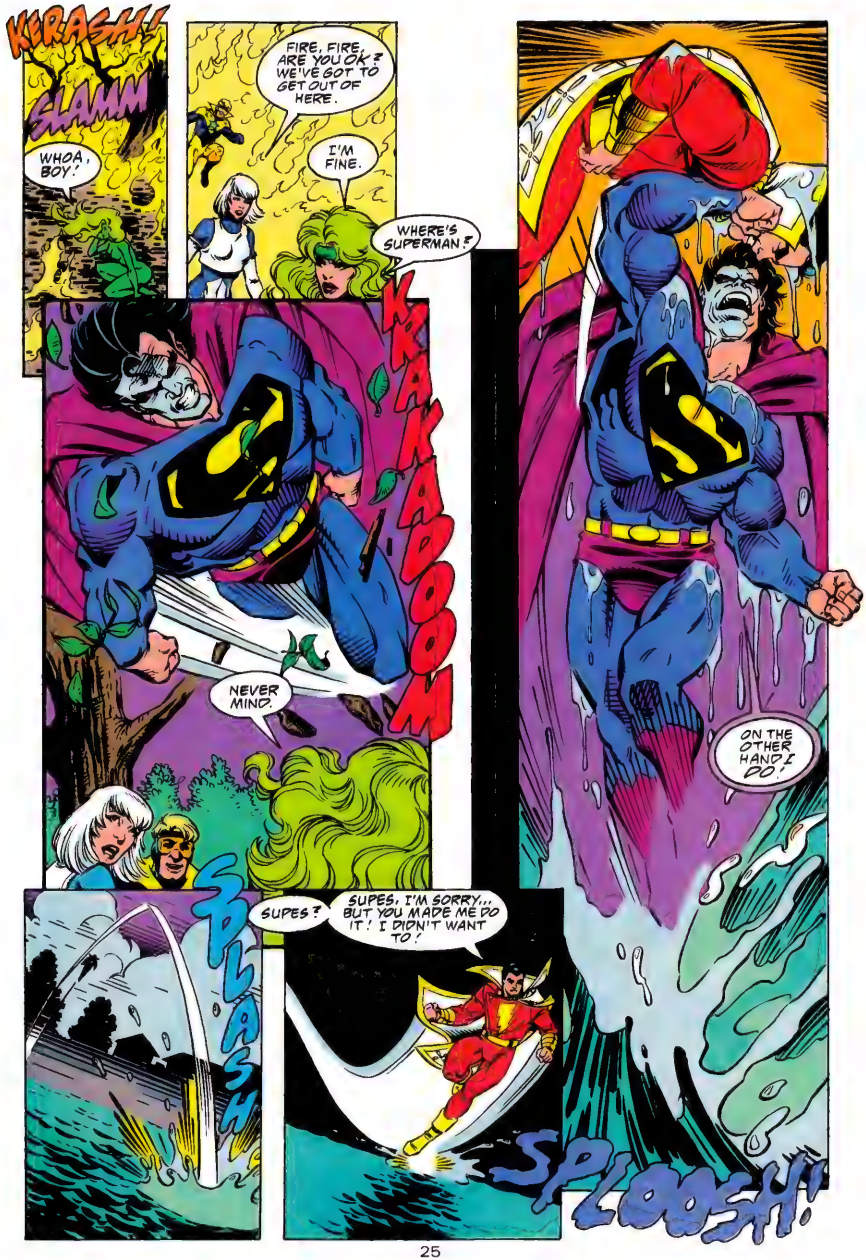

-- DID YOU PEOPLE REALLY THINK YOU COULD DEFEAT ME ?
I'D SAY IT'S TIME TO THINK AGAIN !
GU-FLOOMF!
KRROOM
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO--
KABOOM
NO !
HOLY--! THAT WAS CLOSE !
TOO CLOSE !

ENOUGH! THE TIME HAS COME TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!
NOT THE HEAT VISION AGAIN!
OH, YES AGAIN AND AGAIN!
NOW STAY DOWN! AND HOLD STILL!
THIS IS GOING TO HURT YOU MORE THAN IT DOES--
KRAAAK
--MEEE!
SSSSSSSSHHHH
KABOOM

FRRRRASH
WHO DARES--?
HEY, SUPERMAN, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, MAN?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL!
YOU
CAPTAIN MARVEL!


OR AS SUPERMAN'S MEMORIES LEAD ME TO BELIEVE--
...YOU'RE MORE APPROPRIATELY CALLED THE BIG RED--
--CHEESE.!!!
THOOOM!
AT LAST YOU PEOPLE HAVE FINALLY SENT A DEFENDER WHO'S WORTHY TO BATTLE THE BODY OF SUPERMAN!
:UNNGH:
YOU'RE MAKING THIS HARD, SUPES! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU OR ANYTHING.
YOU CAN'T.

OK, I TRIED TO DO THIS THE EASY WAY!


KIRASH!
SLAMM
WHOA, BOY!
FIRE, FIRE, ARE YOU OK? WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M FINE.
WHERE'S SUPERMAN?
KRAKADOOM
NEVER MIND.
ON THE OTHER HAND I DO!
SUPES?
SUPES, I'M SORRY... BUT YOU MADE ME DO IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO!
SPLASH
SPLOOSH!

:GUUURRRRG:
SQUEEZING THE AIR OUT OF ME...
:GASP!:
NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU PULL THAT AGAIN.
:OOOF:
PT-SSH!
HOW ABOUT WE TAKE THIS BACK TO DRY LAND.
SKRASH

MAN, THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT.
SHOULDN'T WE BE HELPING CAPTAIN MARVEL?
THERE'S NO TIME.
WE HAVE TO FLUSH OUT THE REST OF THE ECLIPSOS BEFORE IT'S...
...TOO LATE.

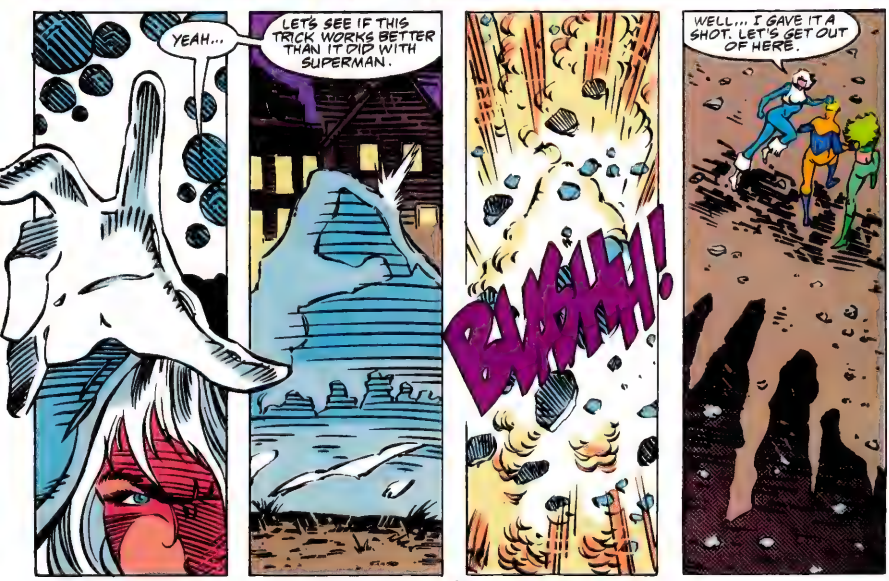
I AM REALLY GETTING TIRED OF THESE GUYS!

THIS SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN.
WHEN'S THAT DOOHICKEY GOING TO GO OFF?!!
SOON, BOOSTER, SOON.

SMASH!!
NOT SOON ENOUGH!

THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!

EEERRAGGGHHH
THANKS AGAIN, FIRE!


YEAH...
LET'S SEE IF THIS TRICK WORKS BETTER THAN IT DID WITH SUPERMAN.
BLAMM!
WELL... I GAVE IT A SHOT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

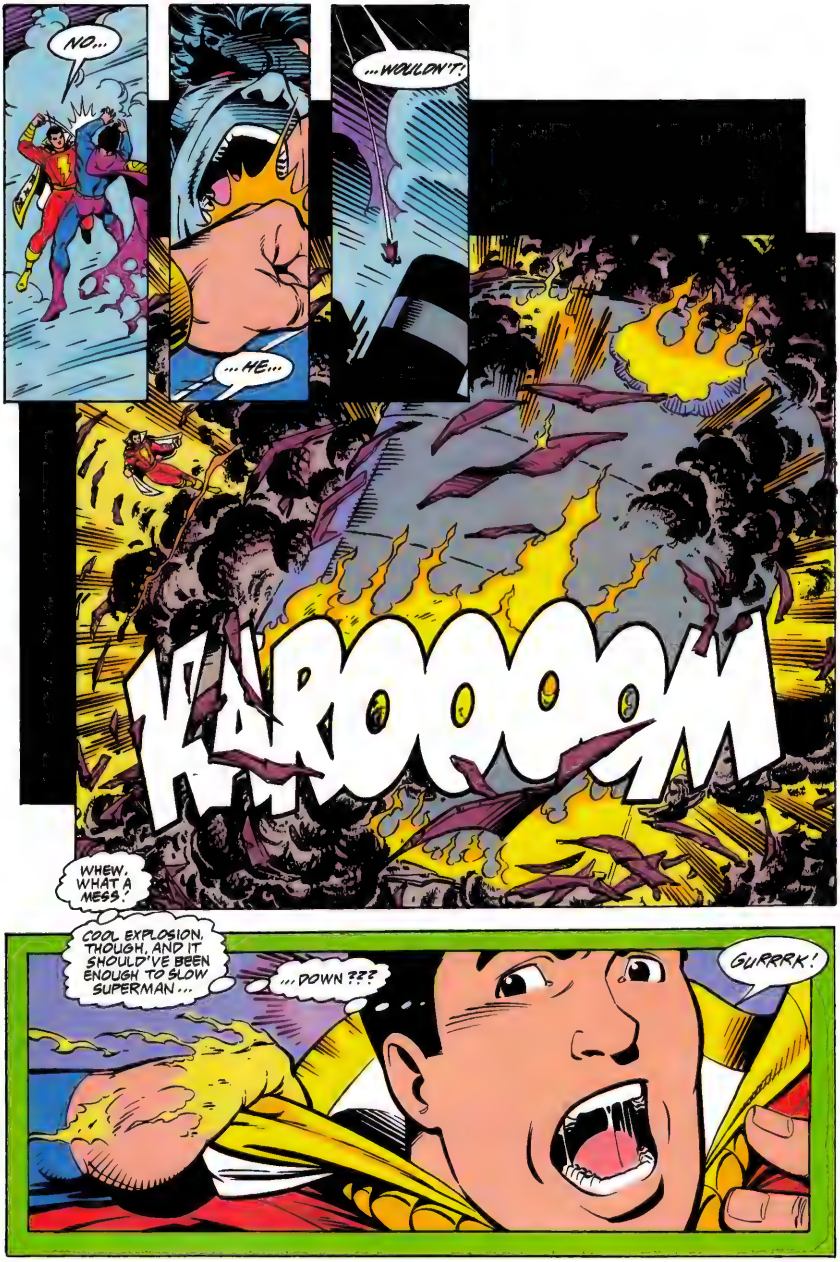
BOOSTER, FIRE!
LET'S GET BACK TO THE CENTER OF TOWN!
I'LL TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU...
BUT I STILL THINK THIS IS A LOUSY IDEA!
BOOSTER, PLEASE... EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
WE'VE GOT THEM RIGHT...WHERE WE... WANT... THEM.

HEY, SUPES!
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS PERSONALLY.
YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU!?

SUPERMAN NO LONGER EXISTS!

KKKKSHHH!
AND SOON, NEITHER WILL YOU!

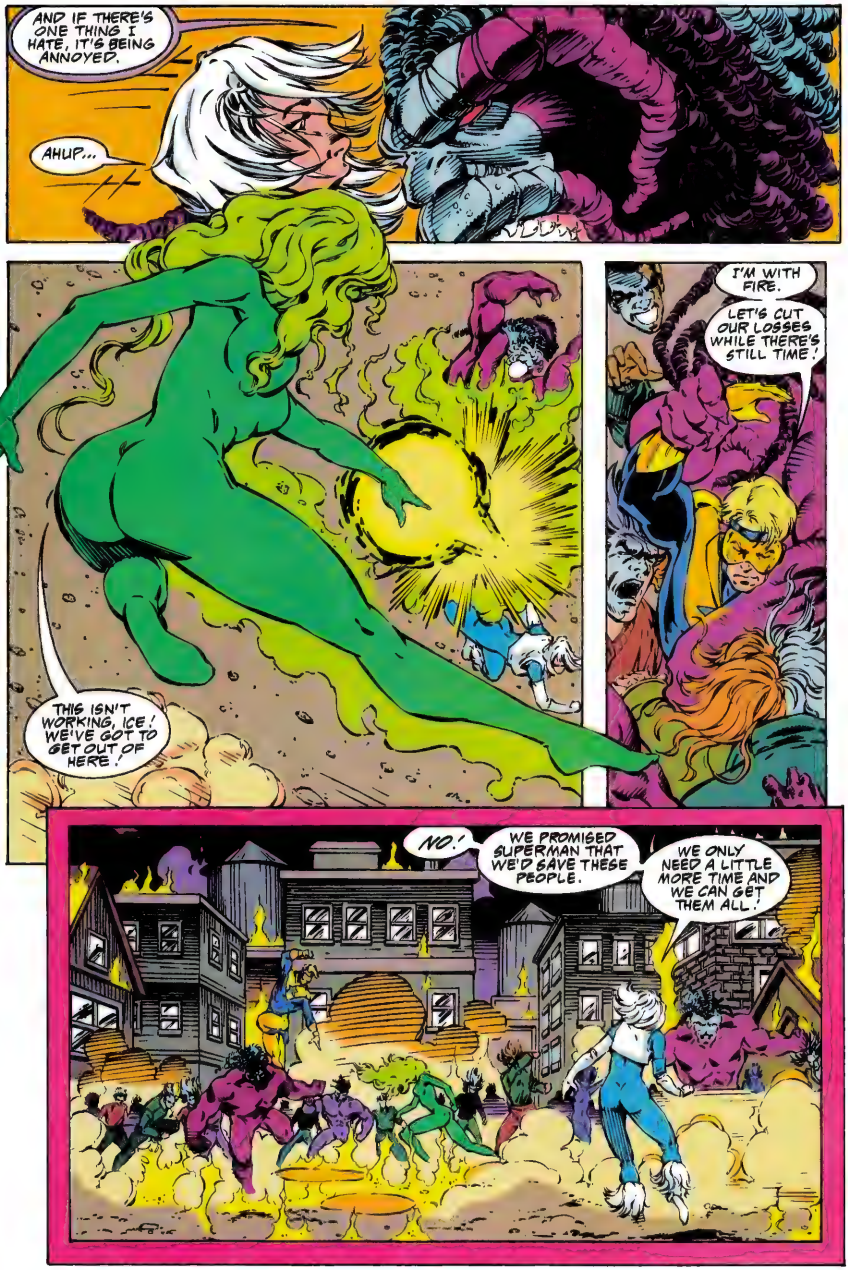
I ASK YOU... WOULD SUPERMAN DO THIS?!
WHOOM!
:NURURGH!:


NO...
...HE...
...WOULDN'T!
KA-BOOOOOM
WHEW. WHAT A MESS.
COOL EXPLOSION, THOUGH, AND IT SHOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH TO SLOW SUPERMAN...
...DOWN???
GURRRK!

GIVE IT UP, MARVEL!
THIS MINDLESS VIOLENCE IS GETTING US NOWHERE!
MASH
OHHHHH MY ACHING...
:SNIFF SNIFF:
OH NO, WHAT IS THAT?
GASOLINE.
NOW, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN STAND THE HEAT.
FW-OOOM

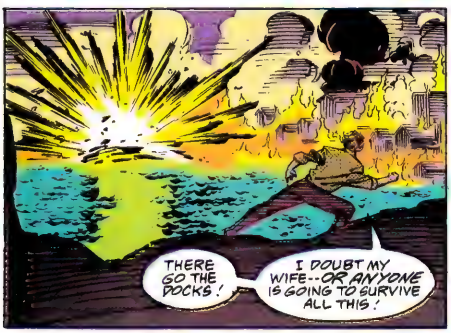
GAAAAAAAAAA

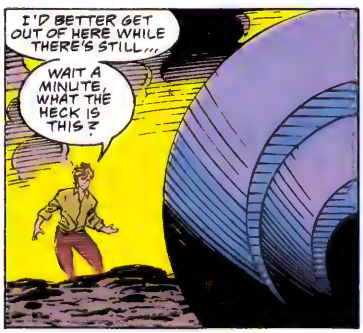
OH, NO, THE DOCKS ARE ON FIRE!
SO'S THE TREE LINE ABOVE THE TOWN!
WHEN'S THAT STUPID THING SUPPOSED TO GO OFF ANYWAY?
I'M NOT SURE. I'VE LOST TRACK OF THE TIME!
HAUCK-
WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING, IT WON'T WORK.
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE HERE!
WELL, THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT PART OF THE PLAN!
THESE ICE TRICKS OF YOURS ARE AS INEFFECTIVE AS THEY ARE ANNOYING.

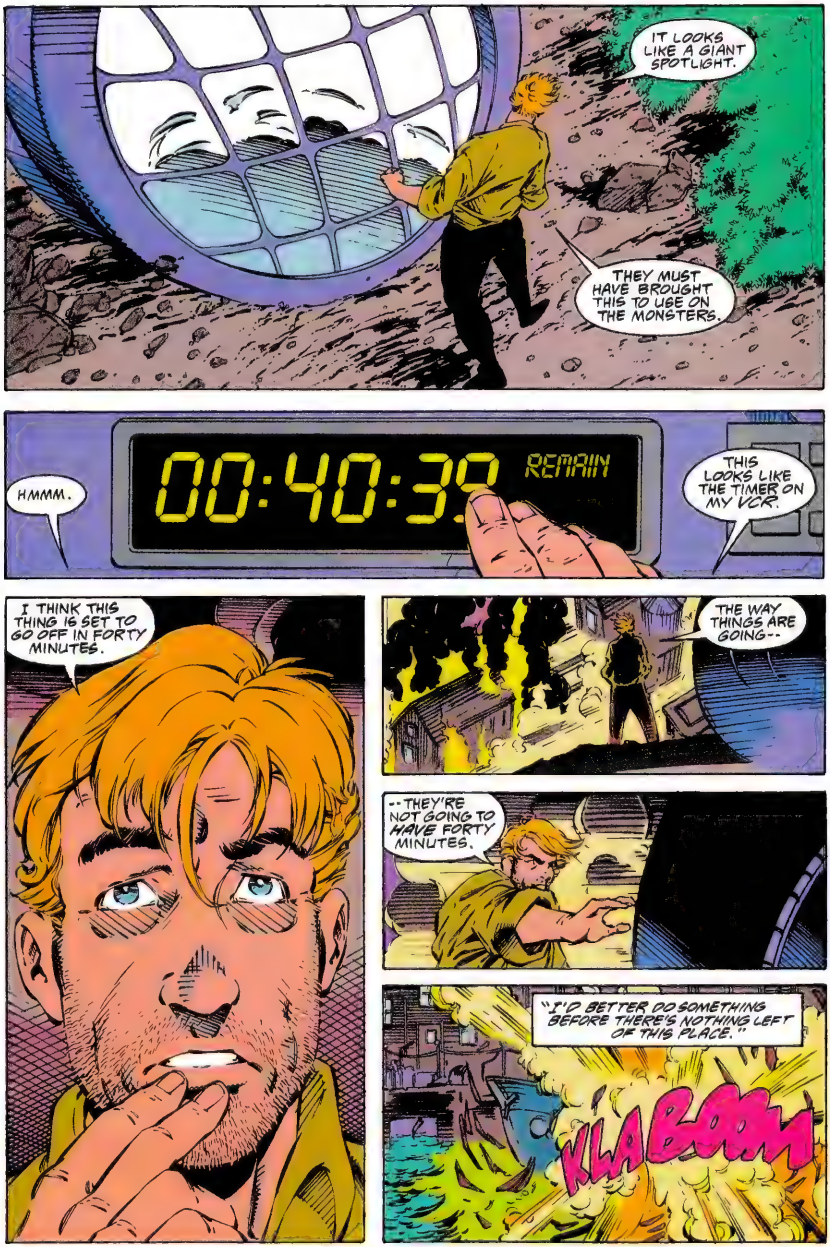

AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I HATE, IT'S BEING ANNOYED.
AHUP...
THIS ISN'T WORKING, ICE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M WITH FIRE.
LET'S CUT OUR LOSSES WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
NO!
WE PROMISED SUPERMAN THAT WE'D SAVE THESE PEOPLE.
WE ONLY NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME AND WE CAN GET THEM ALL!

OH MY,..
THE WHOLE TOWN IS GOING UP IN FLAMES!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN THE HEROES STARTED SHOWING UP.
THOSE PEOPLE CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING WITHOUT CAUSING SOME KIND OF SERIOUS DAMAGE.

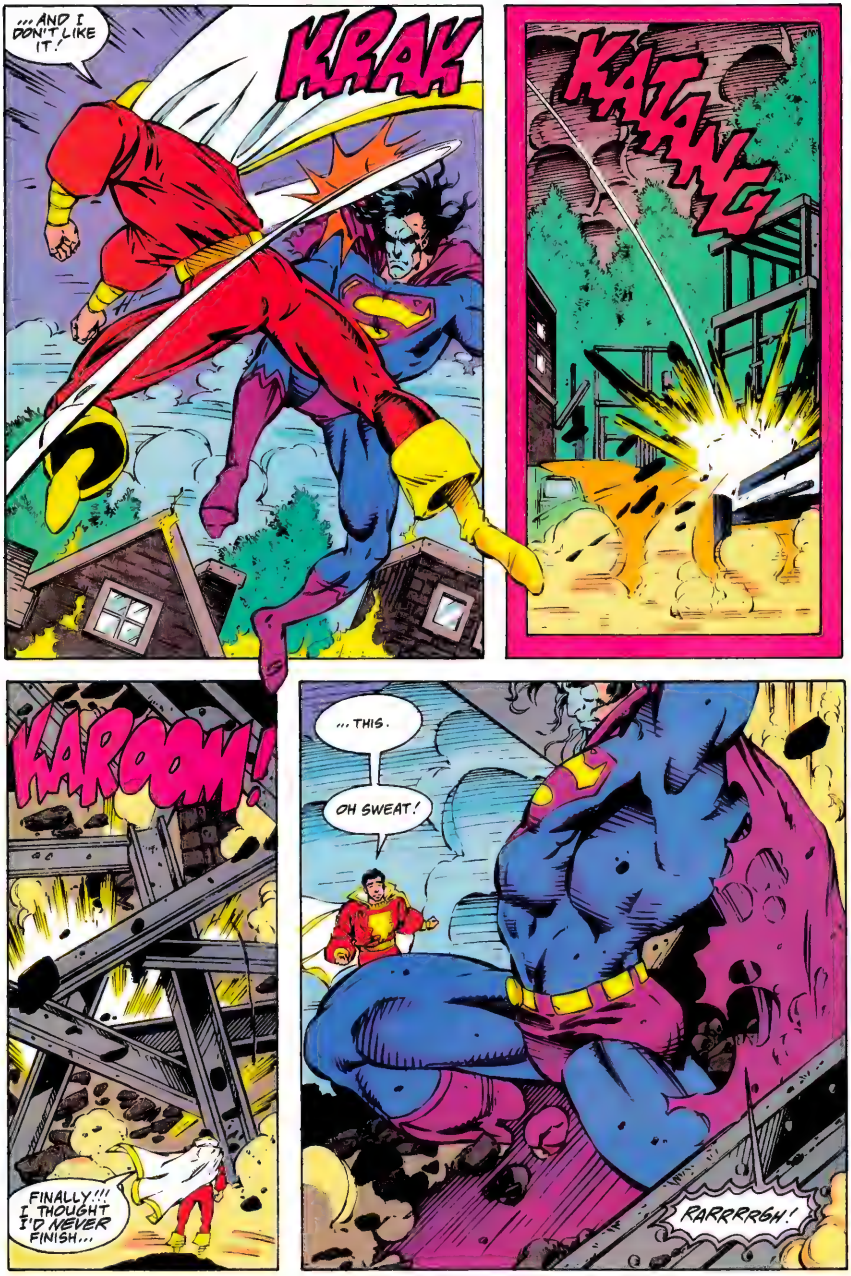

THERE GO THE DOCKS!
I DOUBT MY WIFE--OR ANYONE IS GOING TO SURVIVE ALL THIS!

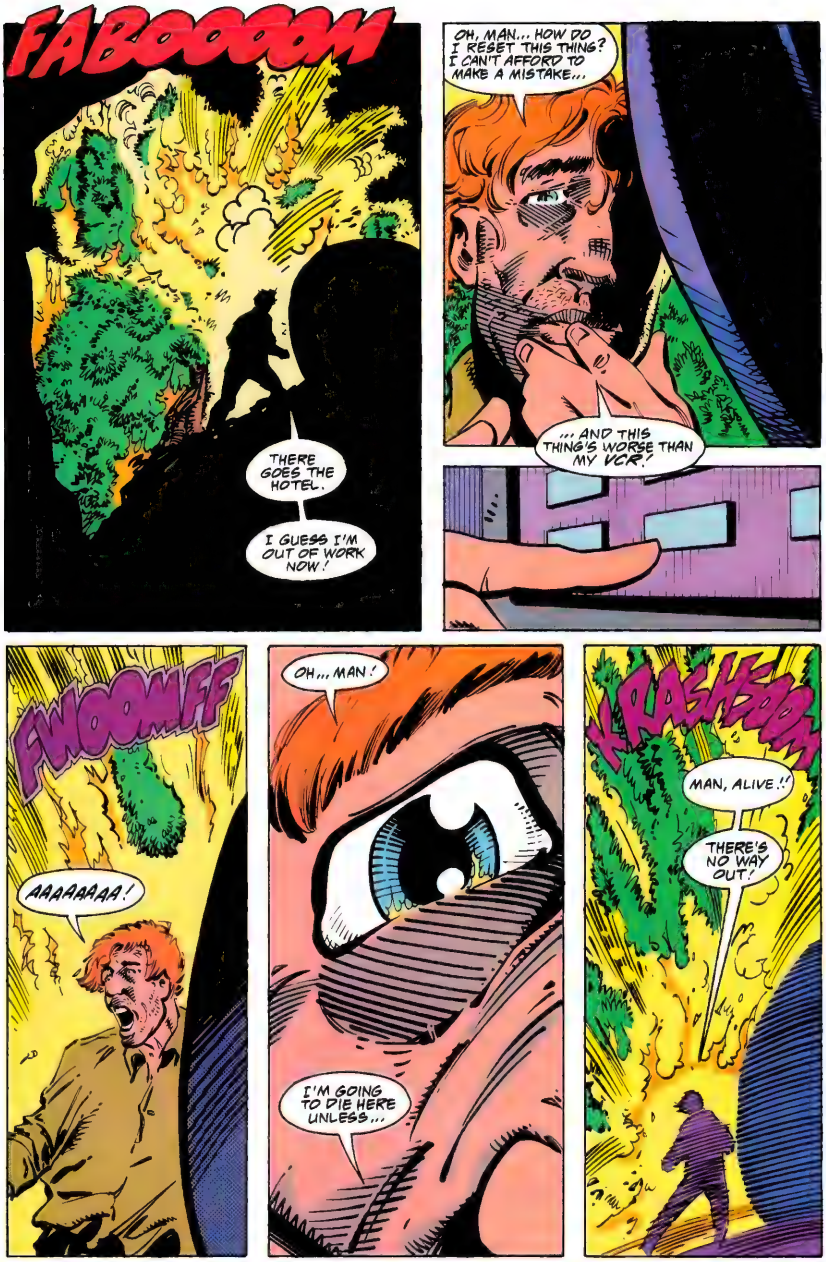

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE WHILE THERE'S STILL...
WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?


IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT SPOTLIGHT.
THEY MUST HAVE BROUGHT THIS TO USE ON THE MONSTERS.
HMMM.
00:40:39
REMAIN
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE TIMER ON MY VCR.
I THINK THIS THING IS SET TO GO OFF IN FORTY MINUTES.
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING--
--THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE FORTY MINUTES.
"I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING BEFORE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THIS PLACE."
KLABOOM

THIS IS RIDICULOUS, SUPERMAN!
LET'S END THIS!
DIE, MARVEL!!!!
NOT TODAY, SUPERMAN!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...?
I AM NOT SUPERMAN!

KRANG
:OOOOFF:
OK, SUPERMAN, YOU'RE FORCING ME TO START GETTING ROUGH HERE!
HA! SUPERMAN'S FLAMING VISION WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOUR--
SSSSSS
FWOOM
SSSSSHHOOMPH!
DAMN!
GEE WHIZ, SUPERMAN, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU ACT LIKE THIS...


...AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
KRAK
KATANG
KARROOM!
FINALLY!!! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER FINISH...
...THIS.
OH SWEAT!
RARRRRGH!

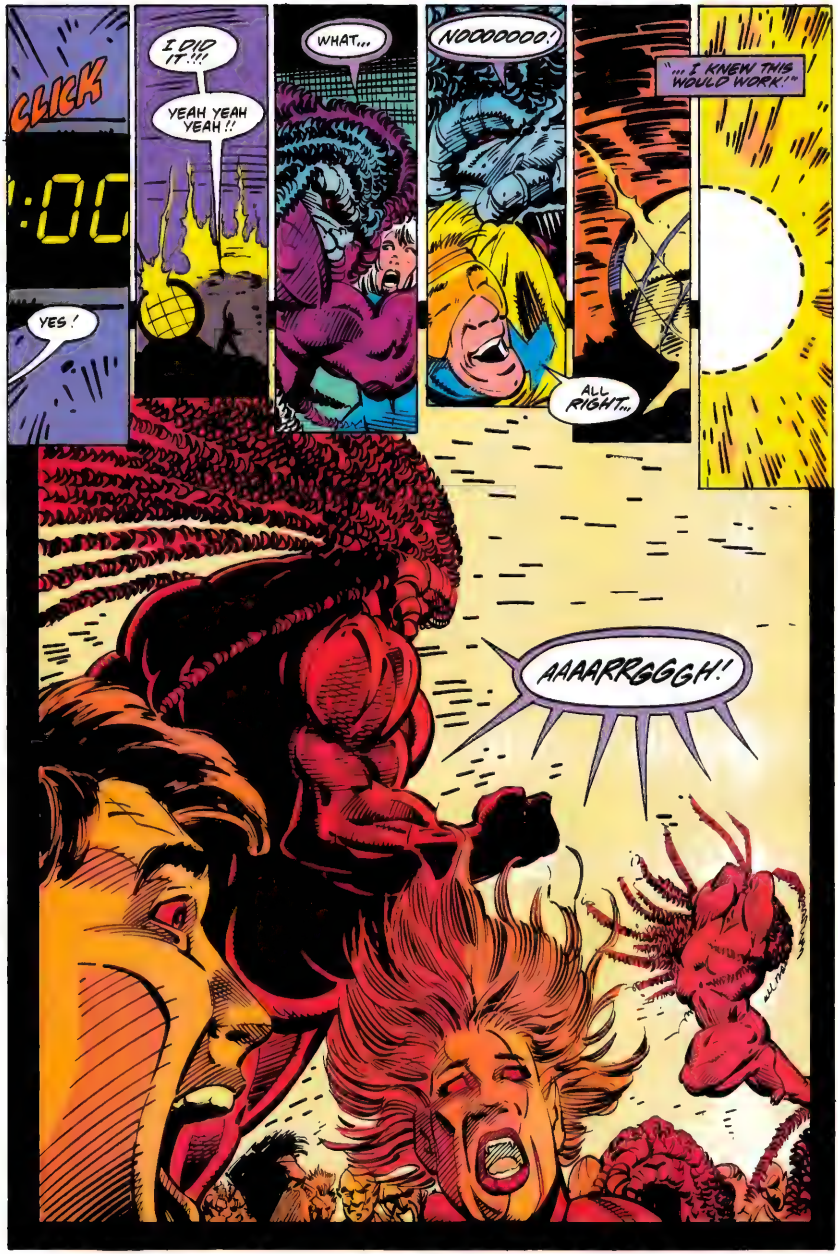

FABOOOOM
THERE GOES THE HOTEL.
I GUESS I'M OUT OF WORK NOW!
OH, MAN... HOW DO I RESET THIS THING? I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE A MISTAKE...
...AND THIS THING'S WORSE THAN MY VCR!
FWOOMFF
AAAAAAAA!
OH... MAN!
I'M GOING TO DIE HERE UNLESS...
KRASHBOOM
MAN, ALIVE!!
THERE'S NO WAY OUT!

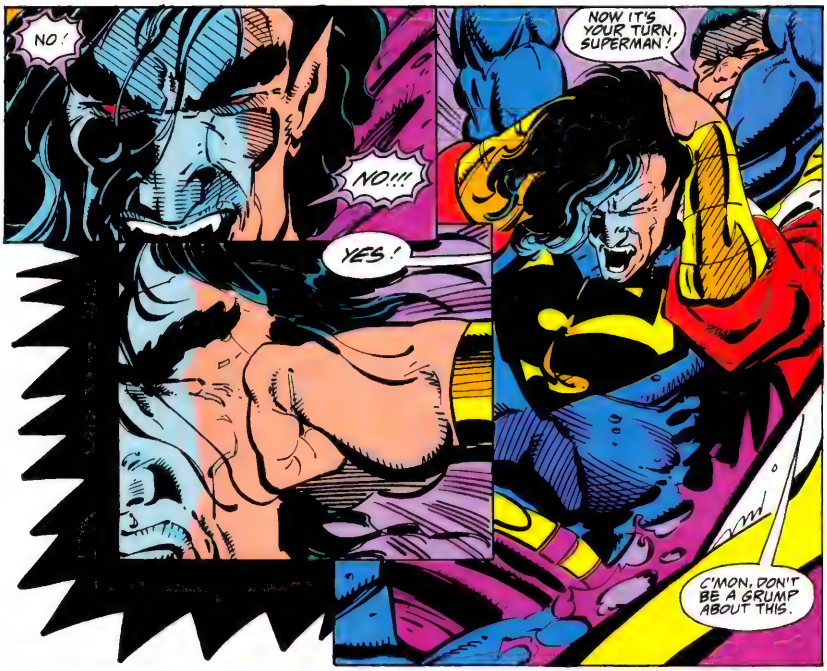
CALM, GOTTA STAY CALM.
OK... TIMER, SET DAY...
OH, NO... WHAT'S THE DATE!!!!
STUPID HEROES, STUPID DEMONS.
STUPID STUPID STUPID STUPID...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THERE! SET!
3:59... ONE MINUTE FROM NOW.
THIS HAD BETTER WORK...
OR WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE DEAD MEAT!

WELL, GUYS, I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT THIS GAME IS JUST ABOUT OVER.
...DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...SHOULD HAVE WORKED...
GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN, BOOSTER!
I'LL STAY HERE WITH FIRE.

NOBILITY WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU YET, LITTLE GIRL!

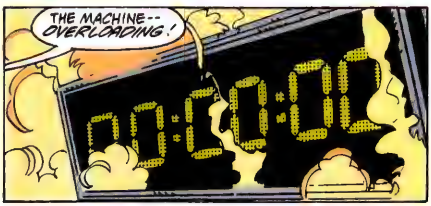
IT'LL BE THE DEATH OF ALL OF YOU!


CLICK
:00
YES!
I DID IT!!!
YEAH YEAH YEAH!!
WHAT...
NOOOOOOO!
ALL RIGHT...
"... I KNEW THIS WOULD WORK!"
AAAARRGGGH!


NO!
NO!!!
YES!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, SUPERMAN!
C'MON, DON'T BE A GRUMP ABOUT THIS.

THEY TELL ME THIS WILL ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND!
¡NNNNNNNUUURGH!¡

WHAT THE--?


THE MACHINE--OVERLOADING!
00:00:02

NO... DON'T GO OUT NOW!

UH... OH...
GUESS WHAT, MARVEL--

--NOW IT'S LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU, TOO!
YOU DESTROYED THE LITTLE FISHING VILLAGE BUT YOU MISSED THE BIG FISH!
AND THAT MISTAKE WILL COST YOU YOUR LI--
EH?
DAMN, THAT CURSED LIGHT STILL WORKS!
KILLING YOU ISN'T WORTH LOSING THIS BODY!
CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY, MARVEL.
NEXT TIME, I WON'T LET YOU OFF THIS EASILY.
OOOOOHHH...
HOW COME I DON'T FEEL SO LUCKY?

WAIT!!
EVERYONE STAY CALM!!!

IT'S NO USE.
THESE PEOPLE ARE OUT OF CONTROL.
CAN YOU BLAME THEM?
THEY ALL JUST WOKE UP AND FOUND THEIR HOMES ON FIRE.

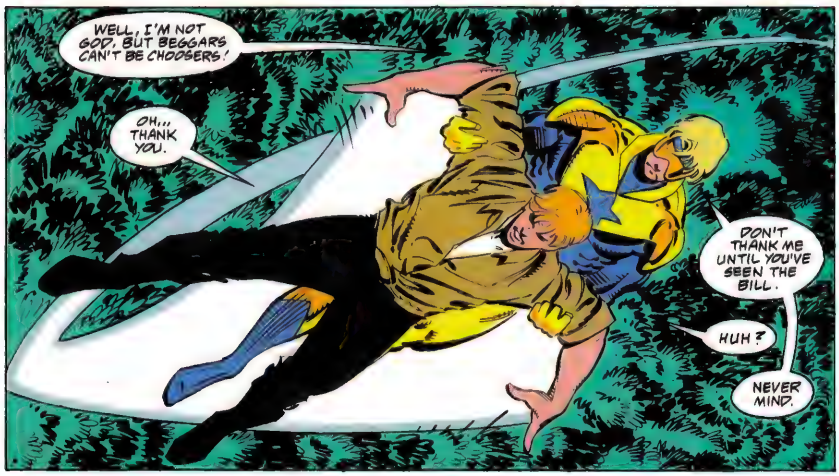
WE'VE GOT TO HELP CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
HOW ABOUT IT, FIRE, DO YOU FEEL UP TO A LITTLE FIRE FIGHTING?
OH, I THINK SO.

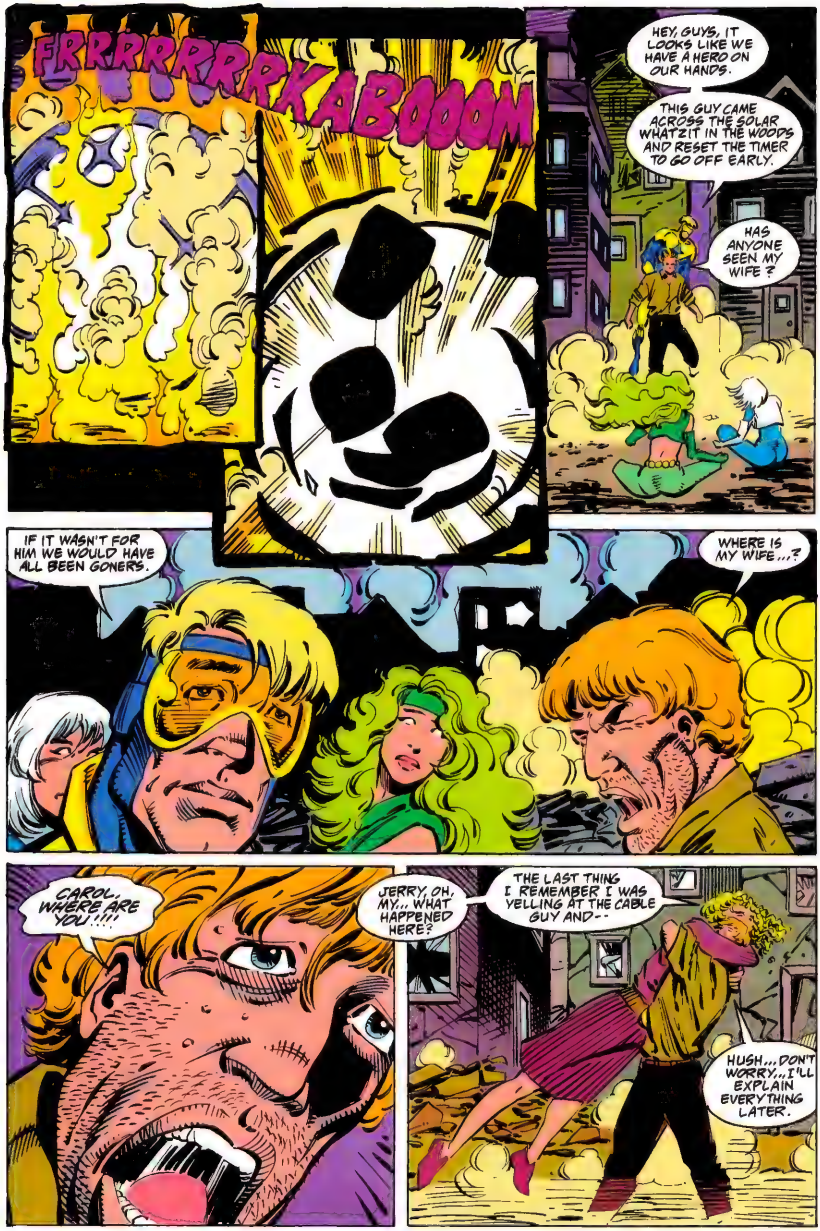
HERE, WE'LL DO THIS THE EASY WAY.
YOU JUST MELT THE ICE AS I SEND IT UP.

OHHHH, MAN, MY ACHIN' BACK!
STAY WITH ME, FIRE. WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THE TOWN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE THE HILLSIDE A GOOD DOUSING.

"THOSE TREES ARE TINDER DRY AND THE WHOLE FOREST IS GOING TO GO UP."
I'M GOING TO DIE I'M GOING TO DIE I'M GOING TO DIE!

GOD HELP ME, PLEASE.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!!


WELL, I'M NOT GOD, BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS!
OH... THANK YOU.
DON'T THANK ME UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN THE BILL.
HUH?
NEVER MIND.

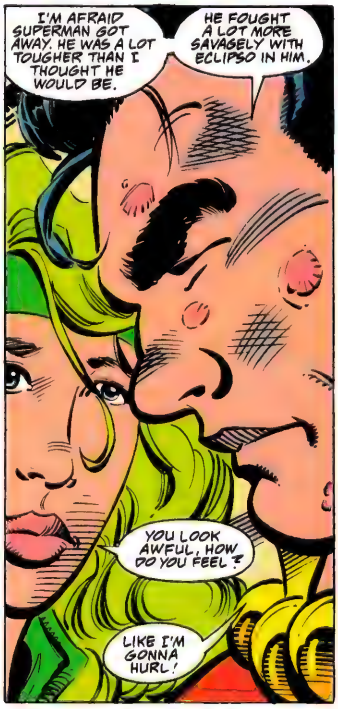

FRRRRRRRRRKABOOOM
HEY, GUYS, IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A HERO ON OUR HANDS.
THIS GUY CAME ACROSS THE SOLAR WHATZIT IN THE WOODS AND RESET THE TIMER TO GO OFF EARLY.
HAS ANYONE SEEN MY WIFE ?
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM WE WOULD HAVE ALL BEEN GONERS.
WHERE IS MY WIFE...?
CAROL, WHERE ARE YOU.!!!!
JERRY, OH, MY... WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS YELLING AT THE CABLE GUY AND--
HUSH... DON'T WORRY... I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER.

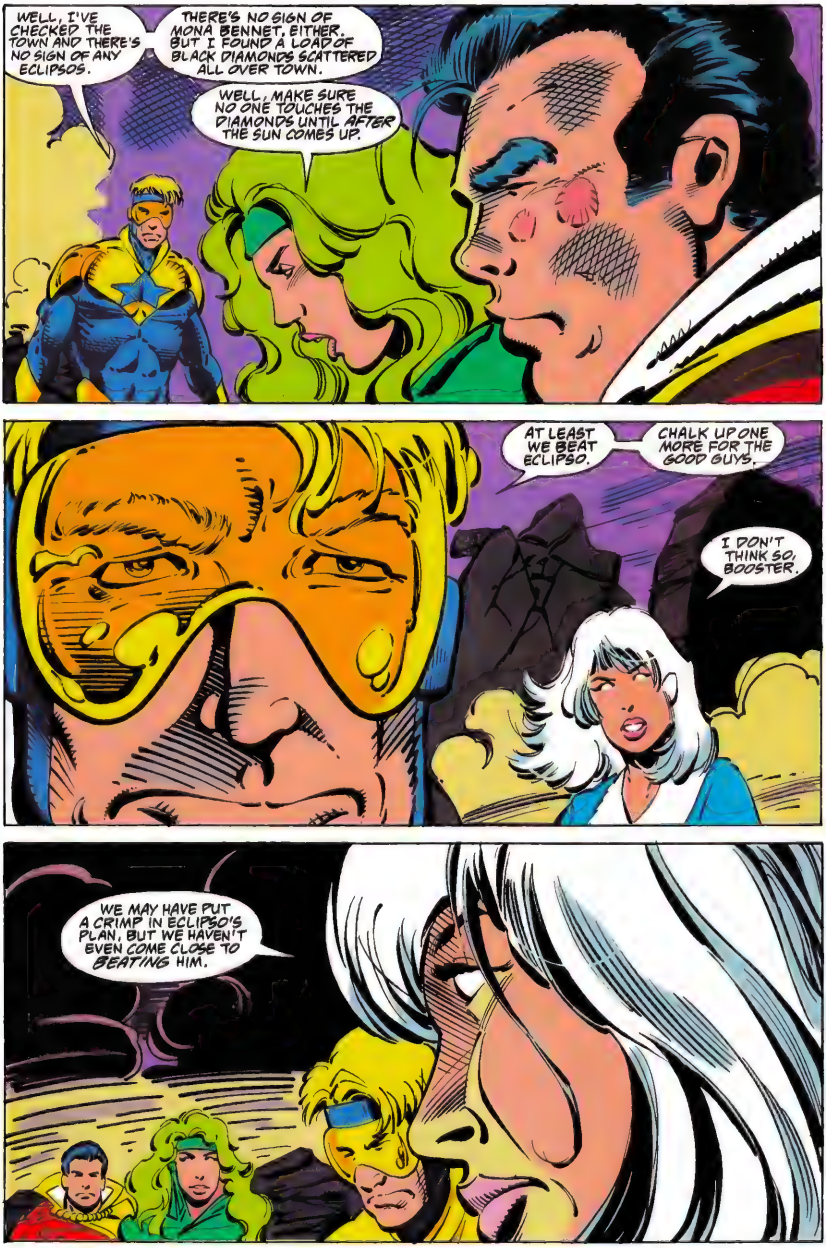
HEY, GIRLY! YOU WANNA TELL ME WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON HERE?!
HUH?
UH, WELL... UHM... THAT IS...
LOOK, I'LL GIVE YOU THE SHORT FORM EXPLANATION.
THE TOWN WAS IN TROUBLE, WE SAVED THE TOWN, EVERYONE'S HAPPY. END OF STORY.
YOU SAVED THE TOWN?
WHICH PART EXACTLY DID YOU SAVE?
AAHHH, AHEM...
YOU FOLKS ARE INSURED, I PRESUME?

INSURED!?
YOU'RE THE ONES WHAT BETTER BE INSURED!

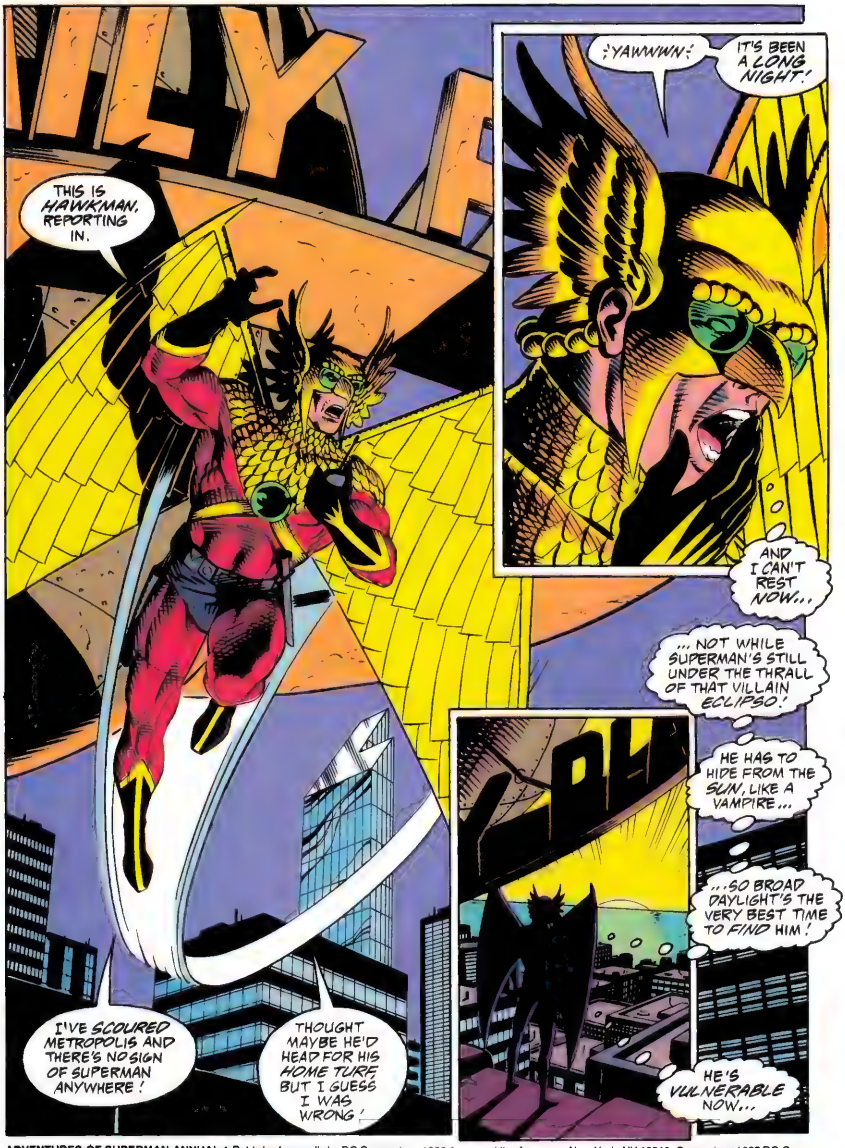
I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS PLACE, IT'S RUINED!
MA'AM, MAYBE I CAN EXPLAIN...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.
CAPTAIN MARVEL, WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S SUPERMAN?


I'M AFRAID SUPERMAN GOT AWAY. HE WAS A LOT TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE.
HE FOUGHT A LOT MORE SAVAGELY WITH ECLIPSO IN HIM.
YOU LOOK AWFUL, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
LIKE I'M GONNA HURL!


WELL, I'VE CHECKED THE TOWN AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY ECLIPSOS.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF MONA BENNET, EITHER. BUT I FOUND A LOAD OF BLACK DIAMONDS SCATTERED ALL OVER TOWN.
WELL, MAKE SURE NO ONE TOUCHES THE DIAMONDS UNTIL AFTER THE SUN COMES UP.
AT LEAST WE BEAT ECLIPSO.
CHALK UP ONE MORE FOR THE GOOD GUYS.
I DON'T THINK SO, BOOSTER.
WE MAY HAVE PUT A CRIMP IN ECLIPSO'S PLAN, BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO BEATING HIM.

OKAY... WE TOOK A BUNCH OF DIAMONDS OUT OF CIRCULATION AND TOOK THIS TOWN AWAY FROM ECLIPSO...
...BUT HE'S STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.
HE'S STILL GOT MONA, AND WHAT'S WORSE--
--NOW HE'S GOT SUPERMAN.
BE WITH ECLIPSO NEXT WEEK IN HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #3 AND ROBIN ANNUAL #1! (OH, AND DON'T MISS ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #4, JUST OVER ONE MONTH FROM NOW, IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MAN OF STEEL!)


THIS IS HAWKMAN, REPORTING IN.
I'VE SCOURED METROPOLIS AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF SUPERMAN ANYWHERE!
THOUGHT MAYBE HE'D HEAD FOR HIS HOME TURF, BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG!
;YAWWWN;
IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT.
AND I CAN'T REST NOW...
...NOT WHILE SUPERMAN'S STILL UNDER THE THRALL OF THAT VILLAIN ECLIPSO!
HE HAS TO HIDE FROM THE SUN, LIKE A VAMPIRE...
...SO BROAD DAYLIGHT'S THE VERY BEST TIME TO FIND HIM!
HE'S VULNERABLE NOW...

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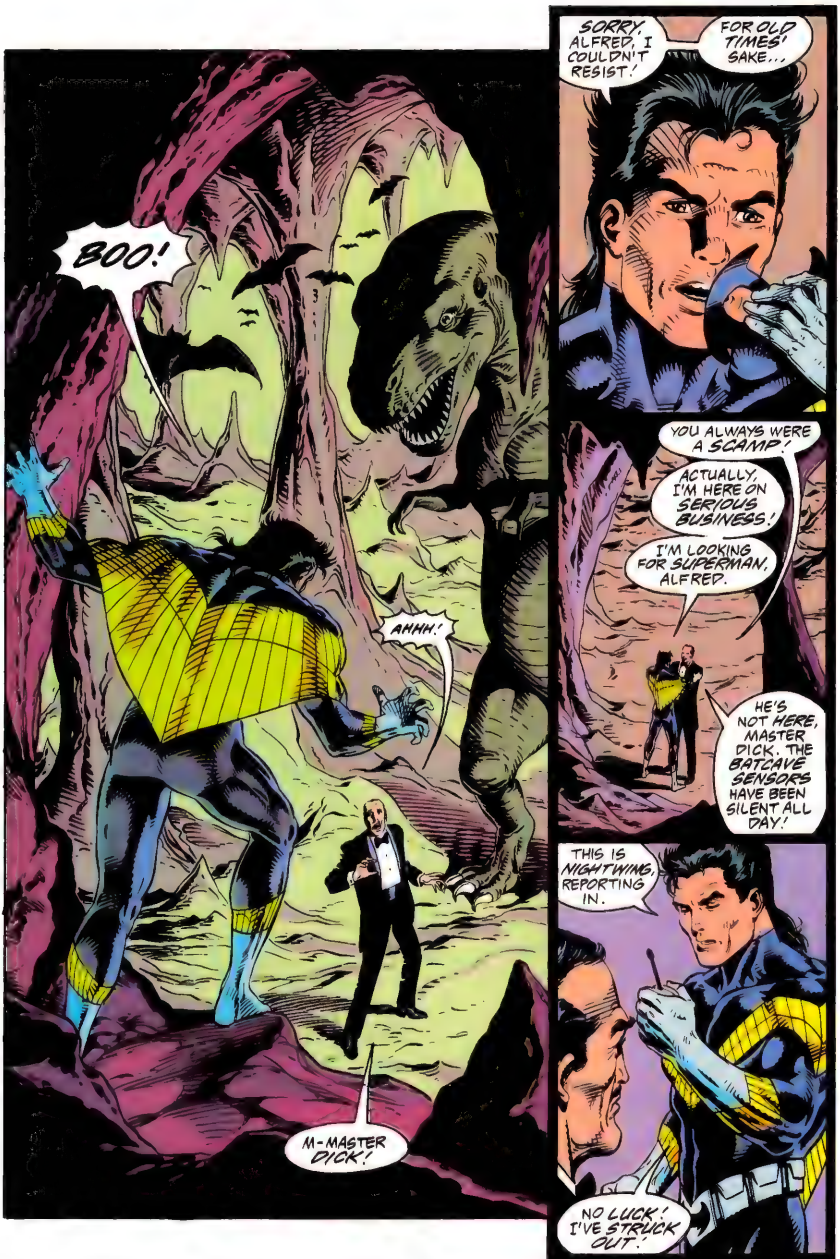
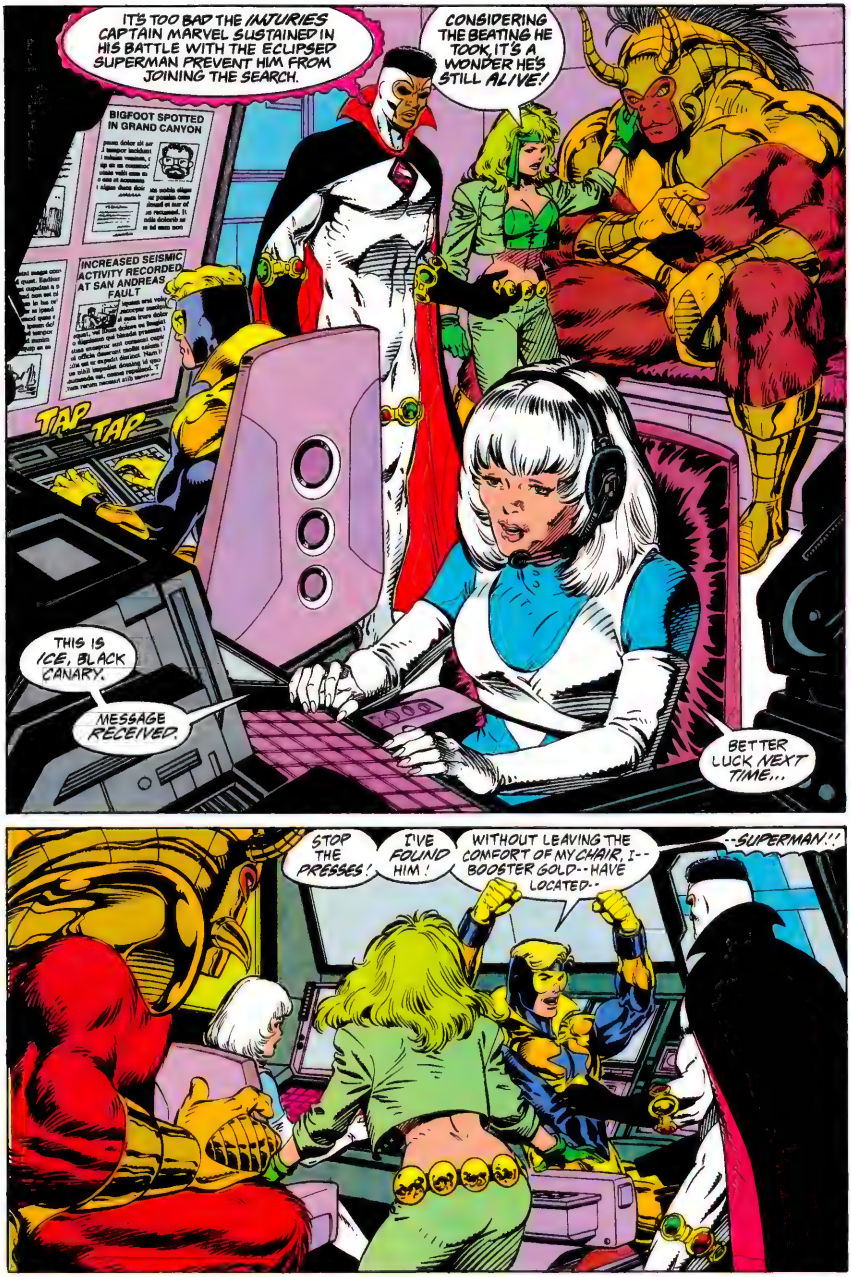
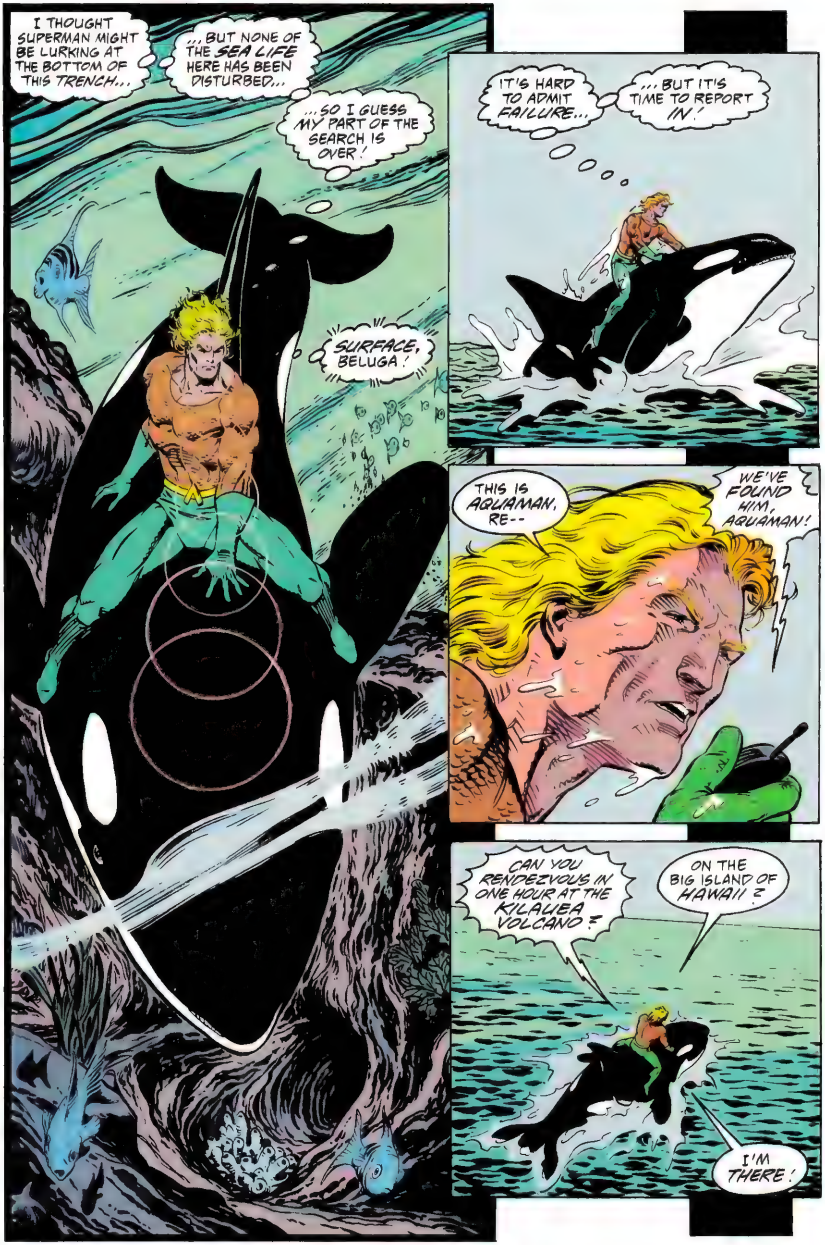
I'M TELLIN' YA, SUPERMAN'S FRAGGIN' FORTRESS IS AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.'
I COULDN'T-A BEEN THAT DRUNK--
THE FORTRESS APPARENTLY MOVES WITH THE GLACIAL ICE FLOW, LOBO.
ANYTHING YET, TELEPATH?
I'M... TRYING, VRIL DOX.
BUT... THIS AREA IS SO HUGE.'
YOU JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN. THAT'S ALL WE CAN ASK.
NO. THERE'S NOTHING.
I CAN'T DETECT ANY BRAIN ACTIVITY.'
THIS IS PHASE, REPORTING IN.
NO SIGN OF SUPERMAN AT THE SOUTH POLE.'


BOO!
AHHH!
M-MASTER DICK!
SORRY, ALFRED, I COULDN'T RESIST.
FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE...
YOU ALWAYS WERE A SCAMP!
ACTUALLY, I'M HERE ON SERIOUS BUSINESS.
I'M LOOKING FOR SUPERMAN, ALFRED.
HE'S NOT HERE, MASTER DICK. THE BATCAVE SENSORS HAVE BEEN SILENT ALL DAY!
THIS IS NIGHTWING, REPORTING IN.
NO LUCK! I'VE STRUCK OUT.

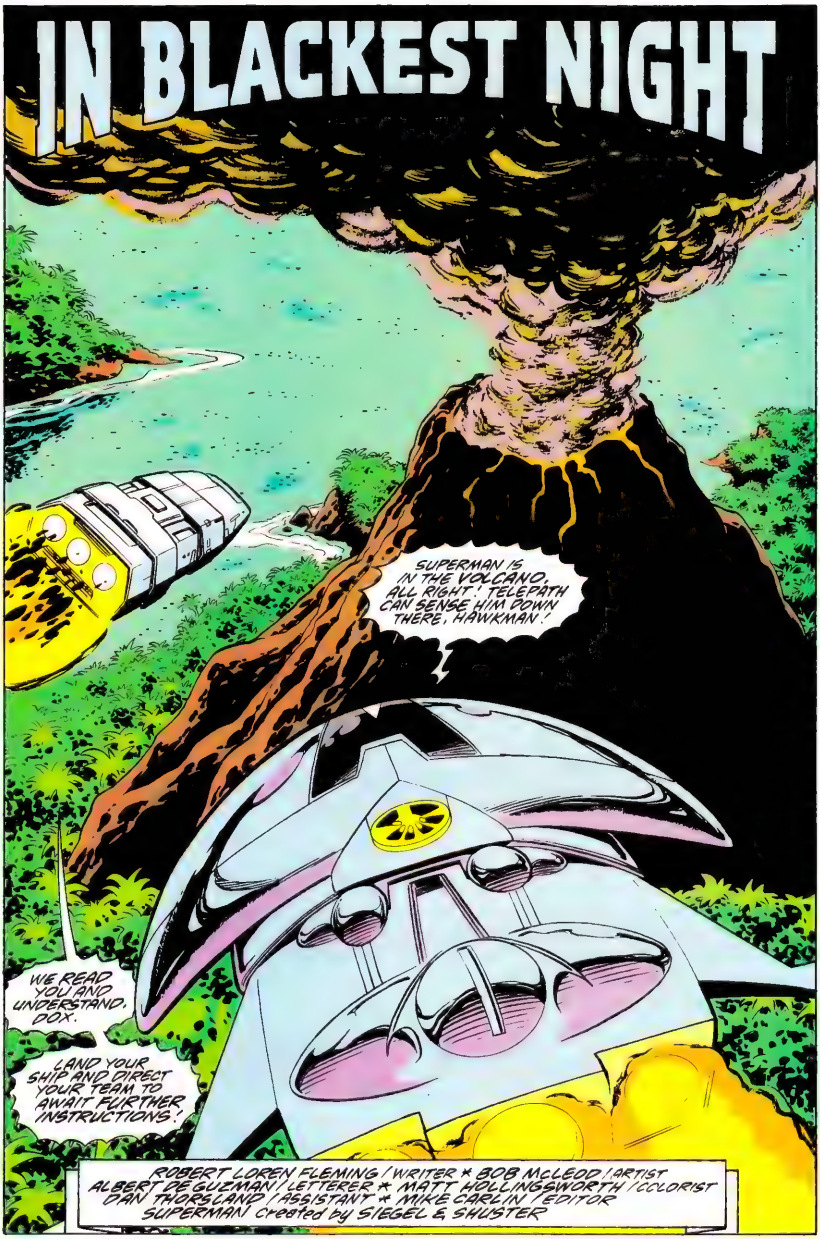
EEEEWW! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
I SAY IT'S EVEN TOO GROSS FOR--
--ECLIPSO?!
:UNH:
ZEE GAME, SHE IS UP, ECLIPSO!
CRIMSON FOX, IT'S ME!
PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
WOW! MUD WRESTLING!
IS THIS A GREAT SEWER OR WHAT?!
OH... SHUT UP, RALPH.
THIS IS BLACK CANARY, REPORTING IN.
SUPERMAN'S NOT HIDING IN THE NEW YORK CITY SEWER SYSTEM!


IT'S TOO BAD THE INJURIES CAPTAIN MARVEL SUSTAINED IN HIS BATTLE WITH THE ECLIPSED SUPERMAN PREVENT HIM FROM JOINING THE SEARCH.
CONSIDERING THE BEATING HE TOOK, IT'S A WONDER HE'S STILL ALIVE!
BIGFOOT SPOTTED IN GRAND CANYON
INCREASED SEISMIC ACTIVITY RECORDED AT SAN ANDREAS FAULT
TAP TAP
THIS IS ICE, BLACK CANARY.
MESSAGE RECEIVED.
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME...
STOP THE PRESSES!
I'VE FOUND HIM!
WITHOUT LEAVING THE COMFORT OF MY CHAIR, I-- BOOSTER GOLD--HAVE LOCATED--
--SUPERMAN!!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT, BOOSTER?
I'VE BEEN SCANNING NEWSPAPER STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, FIRE...
...AND I FINALLY FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR!
CHECK OUT THIS HEADLINE, CRAZY, RIGHT?
BUT KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE FUZZY PHOTOGRAPH...
VOLCANO GODDESS SIGHTED
...AS I USE THE COMPUTER TO ENLARGE AND ENHANCE THE IMAGE...
TAP TAP TAP
...REVEALING...
...OUR LI'L OLE ECLIPSED MAN OF STEEL, WHO'S DONE FOUND HIMSELF A PERFECT HIDING PLACE...
...INSIDE OF AN ACTIVE VOLCANO!!

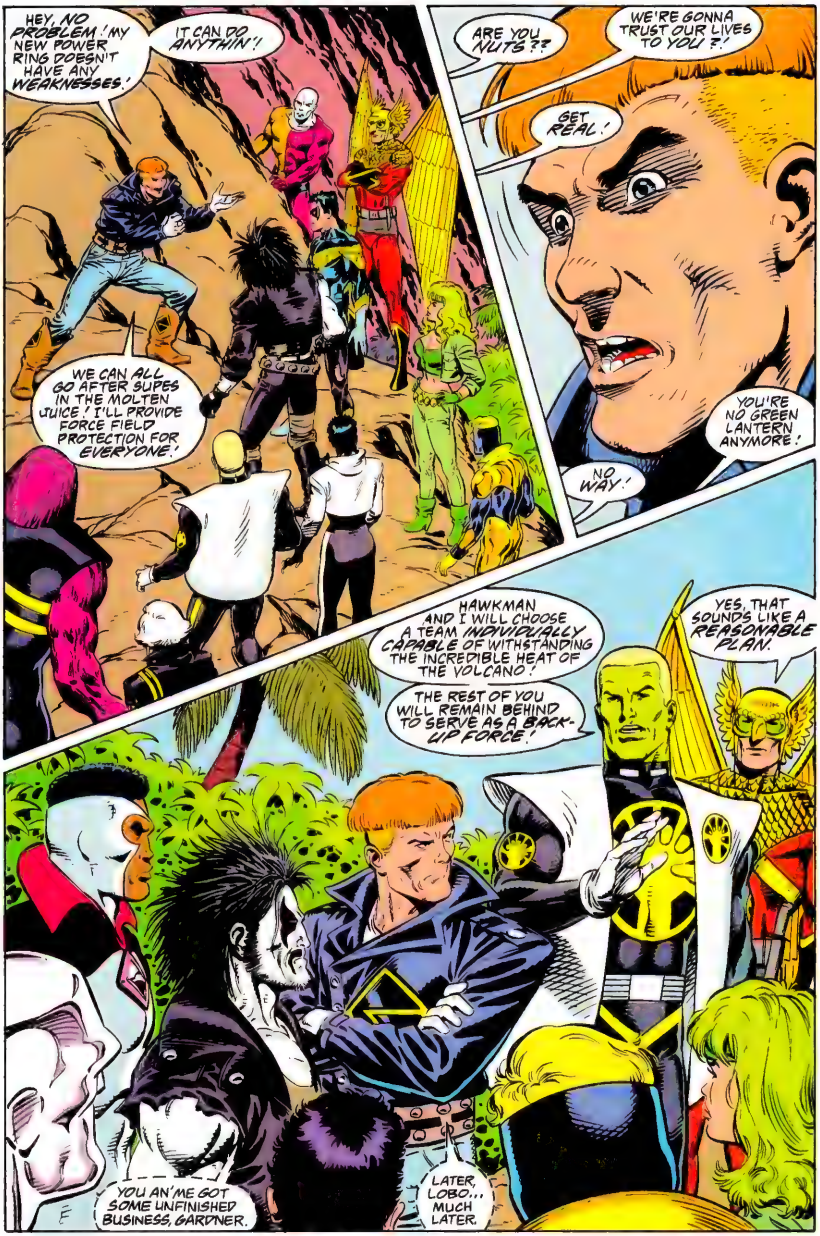

I THOUGHT SUPERMAN MIGHT BE LURKING AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS TRENCH...
...BUT NONE OF THE SEA LIFE HERE HAS BEEN DISTURBED...
...SO I GUESS MY PART OF THE SEARCH IS OVER!
SURFACE, BELUGA!
IT'S HARD TO ADMIT FAILURE...
...BUT IT'S TIME TO REPORT IN!
THIS IS AQUAMAN, RE--
WE'VE FOUND HIM, AQUAMAN!
CAN YOU RENDEZVOUS IN ONE HOUR AT THE KILAUEA VOLCANO?
ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII?
I'M THERE!

"LET METAMORPHO DO IT! HE KNOWS THE AMAZON JUNGLE LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND!"
"IF ANYONE CAN LOCATE SUPERMAN IN THE MIDDLE OF A TROPICAL RAIN FOREST, IT'S METAMORPHO!"
WHAT A SAP! FLATTERY WILL GET ME ANYWHERE!
CHOP!
BUT IT CAN'T HELP ME FIND MY WAY BACK...
BEEP BEEP
WHAT?
BZZZZ RZZZZ
HEADS UP, ELEMENT MAN! WE'LL BE SWINGING BY TO PICK YOU UP IN TWO MINUTES!
'BOUT TIME! I'M GETTIN' EATEN ALIVE DOWN HERE!
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE CRUISER.
SOMEBODY MUST'VE LOCATED SUPERMAN. HOPE WHOEVER DID IT IS STILL ALIVE...
I'VE GOT A NASTY FEELING THIS IS GOING TO GET REALLY UGLY.


IN BLACKEST NIGHT
SUPERMAN IS IN THE VOLCANO, ALL RIGHT! TELEPATH CAN SENSE HIM DOWN THERE, HAWKMAN!
WE READ YOU AND UNDERSTAND, DOX.
LAND YOUR SHIP AND DIRECT YOUR TEAM TO AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS!
ROBERT LOREN FLEMING / WRITER * BOB McLEOD / ARTIST
ALBERT DE GUZMAN / LETTERER * MATT HOLLINGSWORTH / COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND / ASSISTANT * MIKE CARLIN / EDITOR
SUPERMAN! created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER

WHAT'S WITH THIS "FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS" JUNK, BIRDBRAIN?
WE'RE L.E.G.I.O.N.! WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS, WE GIVE 'EM!
MUCH AS I HATE TO AGREE WITH LOBO, YOU ARE OUT OF LINE, HAWKMAN!
I'M MUCH MORE QUALIFIED THAN YOU TO LEAD THIS ATTACK!
YOU!?
YOU'RE A DESK JOCKEY! WHAT'S REQUIRED HERE IS A LEADER WITH COMBAT EXPERIENCE!
OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, QUIT BICKERING AND LET'S DECIDE ON A PLAN!
WE ONLY HAVE UNTIL SUNSET TO SAVE SUPERMAN!
UH OH
LOOKS LIKE OUR TIMETABLE JUST GOT SHOT TO HELL.

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
LESS FRAGGIN' TALK, MORE PULSE-POUNDIN' ACTION!
LOBO!
GET DOWN, YOU FOOL!
ZZZ
PREEESENTING... THE NEW GUY GARDNER!
EQUIPPED WITH ONE NEWLY-ACQUIRED SINESTRO POWER RING...
...GOOD FOR FOLLOWING THE VAPOR TRAILS OF JUSTICE LEAGUE CRUISERS AND CREATING GUIDED MISSILE CAMOUFLAGE!
HEY, PAL, I'M SURE WE'D ALL BE IMPRESSED IF WE HAD THE TIME!
BUT IF WE DON'T COAX SUPERMAN OUT OF THAT ACTIVE VOLCANO BEFORE SUNSET, THE LAVA'S GOING TO HIT THE FAN!


HEY, NO PROBLEM! MY NEW POWER RING DOESN'T HAVE ANY WEAKNESSES!
IT CAN DO ANYTHIN'!
WE CAN ALL GO AFTER SUPES IN THE MOLTEN JUICE! I'LL PROVIDE FORCE FIELD PROTECTION FOR EVERYONE!
ARE YOU NUTS??
WE'RE GONNA TRUST OUR LIVES TO YOU?!
GET REAL!
YOU'RE NO GREEN LANTERN ANYMORE!
NO WAY!
HAWKMAN AND I WILL CHOOSE A TEAM INDIVIDUALLY CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING THE INCREDIBLE HEAT OF THE VOLCANO!
THE REST OF YOU WILL REMAIN BEHIND TO SERVE AS A BACK-UP FORCE!
YES, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REASONABLE PLAN.
YOU AN'ME GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS, GARDNER.
LATER, LOBO... MUCH LATER.

"DUH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REASONABLE PLAN."
WHAT A BORN LEADER! I'D FOLLOW THAT WINGED WONDER ANYWHERE!
SHUT UP, GUY!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BRIEF YOU ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AS WE MAKE OUR APPROACH...

HEY, WAIT FOR ME, GUYS!
I'M NOT A "GUY." MY NAME IS STRATA, AND I'M A FEMALE.
NO WONDER WE'RE THE "B" TEAM.
FEETAL'S GIZZARD!

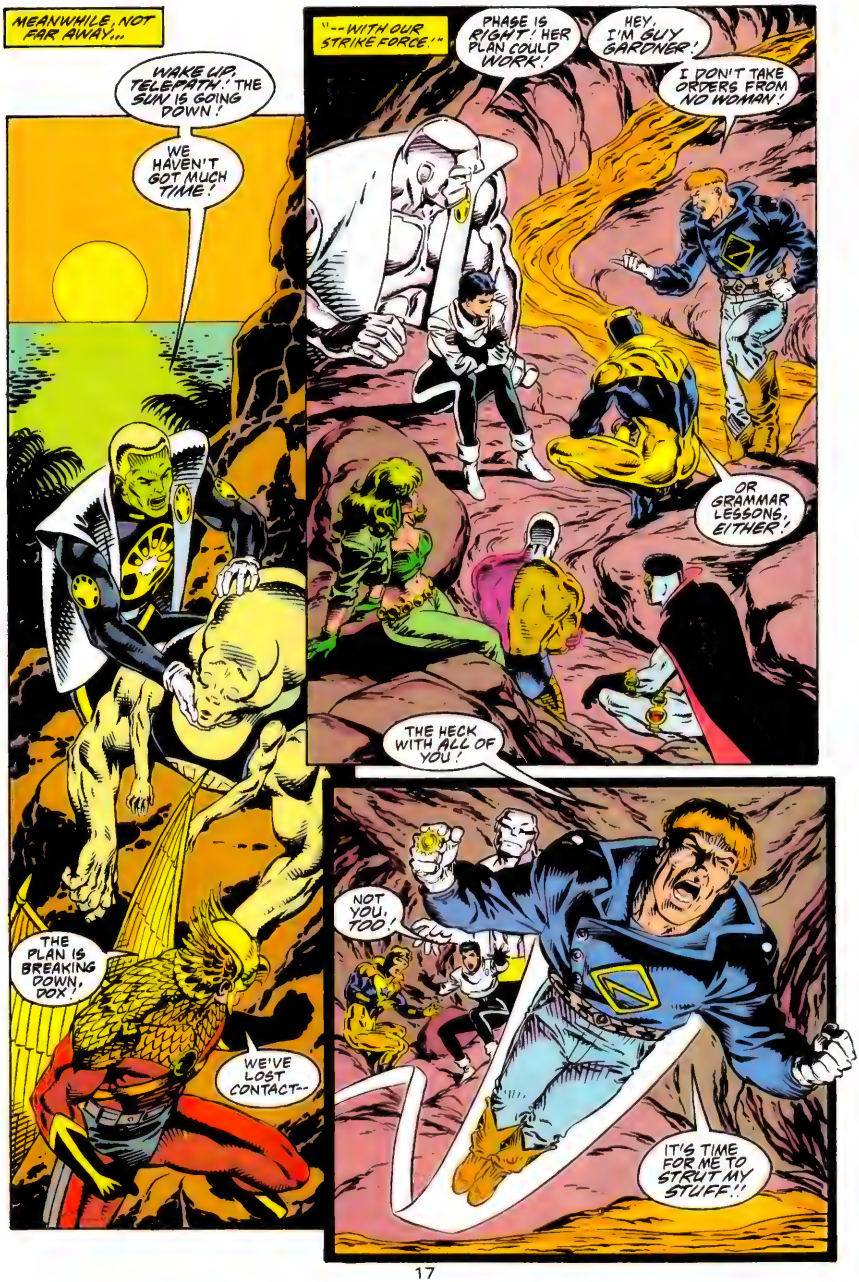
CHECK IT OUT, FOLKS! THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONLY TIME YOU'LL EVER SEE LAVA FLOWING INTO A VOLCANO!
BE CAREFUL, METAMORPHO!
REMEMBER, YOU MAY BE FIGHTING SUPERMAN'S BODY, BUT ECLIPSO'S MIND IS IN CONTROL!

I'M GOING IN TOO, DOX!
EVEN THOUGH I'LL HAVE TO REMAIN IN PHANTOM FORM THE ENTIRE TIME, I CAN OBSERVE AND REPORT BACK TO YOU THROUGH TELEPATH!
GOOD LUCK, PHASE!

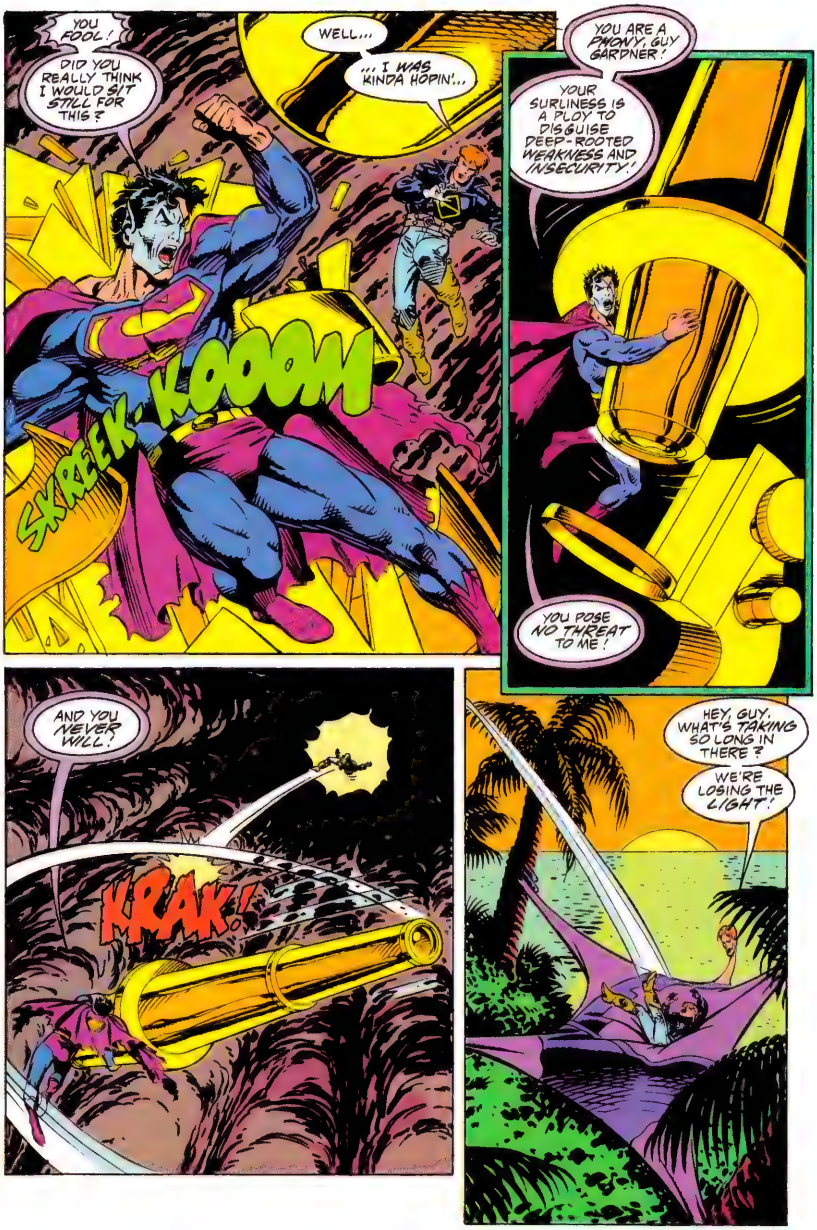
SEE, MISS DOUBTING THOMASINA?
NOT ONLY DOES MY RING PROTECT ME, IT ALSO ALLOWS US TO COMMUNICATE!
NOW THERE'S A REAL BENEFIT...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, BOOSTER GOLD...
...BUT THE MYSTICAL NATURE OF MY POWERS SERVES TO REPEL THE MOLTEN LAVA FROM MY BODY!
MY FORCE FIELD IS HOLDING UP FINE...
...BUT ARE WE SURE BLOODWYND CAN SURVIVE THIS STUFF?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
NOTHING SHUTS THESE CLOWNS UP!

TELEPATH!
GET A FIX ON SUPERMAN'S POSITION IN THE CRATER AND RELAY IT TO PHASE!
YES!
I'M...GUIDING HER DIRECTLY TO HIM!
HE'S THIS WAY, EVERYONE!
DOX HAS INSTRUCTED TELEPATH TO PROBE SUPERMAN'S BRAIN, SO WE'LL HAVE ADVANCE WARNING OF ECLIPSO'S EVERY MOVE!
OH
OH NO
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?
TELEPATH, WHAT DID YOU SEE??
WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE!
ANSWER ME!!
N-NOT THAT!!!
--※

ANYONE HERE MAN ENOUGH TO TAKE ME ON SINGLEHANDED?
FRAGFACE, YOU JUST MET YOUR MATCH!
LOBO, NO!
HE'S TRYING TO DIVIDE US!
AHH, I WORK BETTER ALONE!
I AGREE, SIMPLETON!
AND YOU ALSO MAKE AN EXCEPTIONAL--
OOOF!
--SUPER--
--SPEED--
--PUNCHING BAG!
OH MOMMA

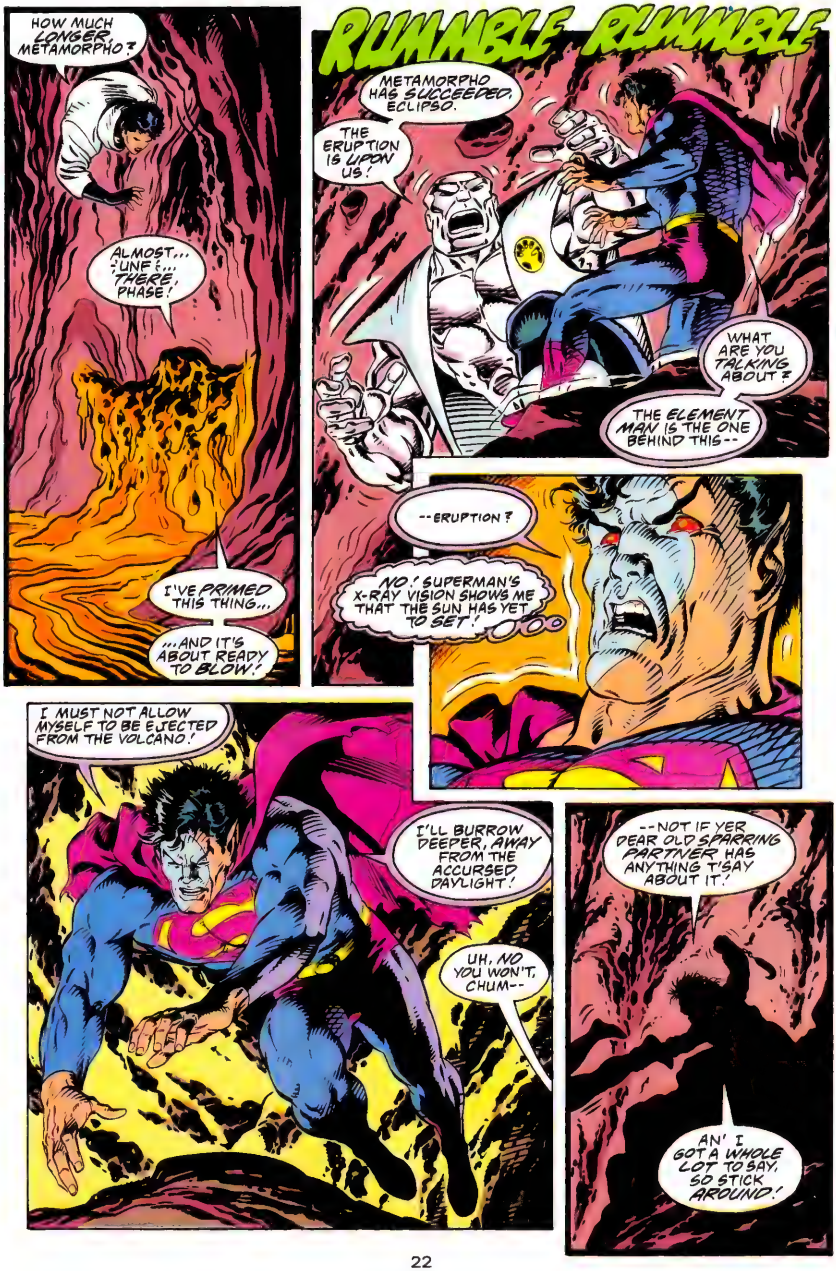

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...
WAKE UP, TELEPATH! THE SUN IS GOING DOWN!
WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME!
THE PLAN IS BREAKING DOWN, DOX!
WE'VE LOST CONTACT--
"--WITH OUR STRIKE FORCE."
PHASE IS RIGHT! HER PLAN COULD WORK!
HEY, I'M GUY GARDNER!
I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM NO WOMAN!
OR GRAMMAR LESSONS, EITHER!
THE HECK WITH ALL OF YOU!
NOT YOU, TOO!
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO STRUT MY STUFF!

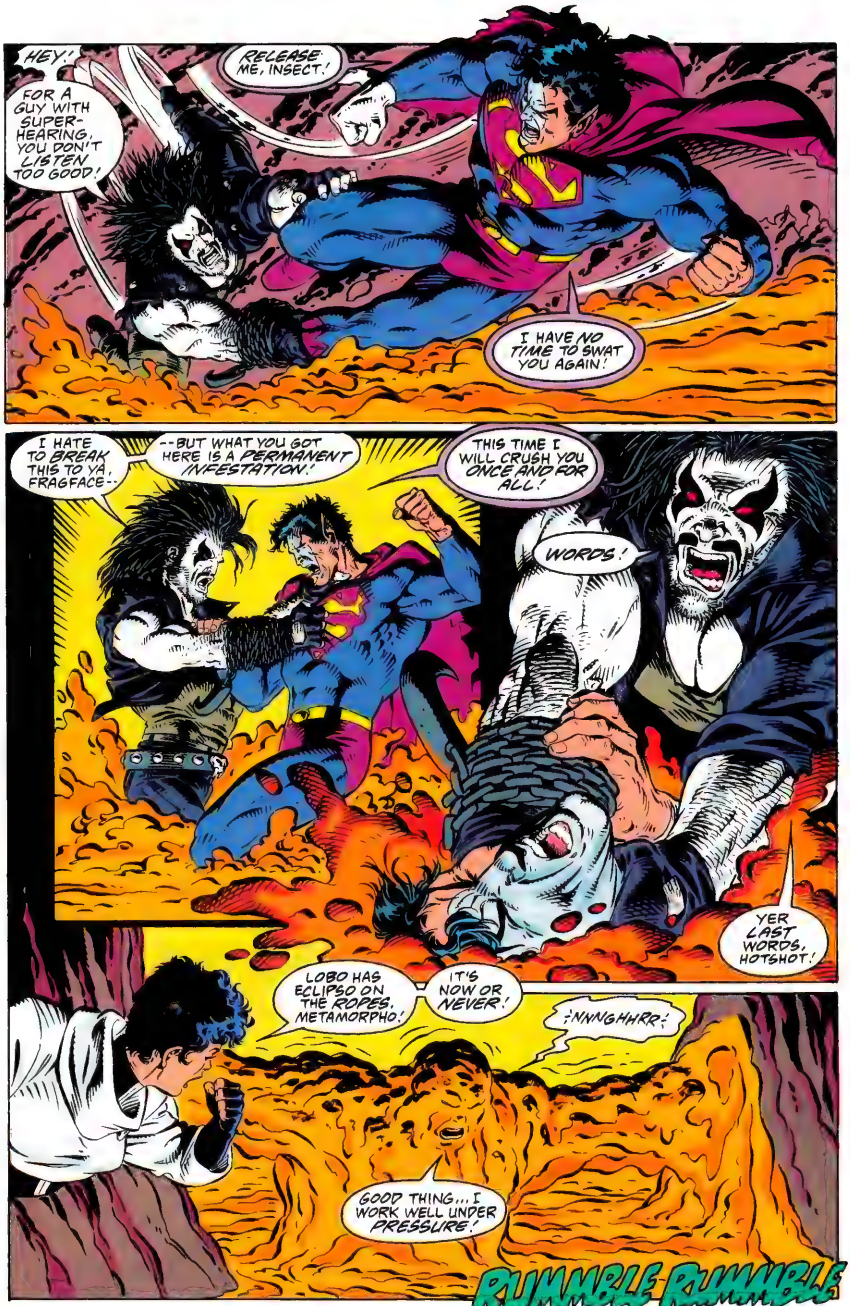
OKAY, ECLIPSO, YOU'VE REALLY STEPPED IN IT NOW!
YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT THE GUY WHO'S GONNA TAKE YOU OUT!
NOTHING AND NOBODY COULD GET ME OUT OF THIS VOLCANO AND INTO THE SUN!
LEAST OF ALL YOU!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
YOU'RE EVEN MORE PATHETIC THAN I THOUGHT!
YEAH, WELL LET'S REEXAMINE THAT CONCLUSION...
...UNDER THE HARSH LIGHT OF DAY!
W-WHAT?
NO!
NOT SUNLIGHT!!!


YOU FOOL!
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD SIT STILL FOR THIS?
WELL...
...I WAS KINDA HOPIN'...
SKREEK-KOOOM
YOU ARE A PHONY, GUY GARDNER!
YOUR SURLINESS IS A PLOY TO DISGUISE DEEP-ROOTED WEAKNESS AND INSECURITY!
YOU POSE NO THREAT TO ME!
AND YOU NEVER WILL!
KRAK!
HEY, GUY, WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG IN THERE?
WE'RE LOSING THE LIGHT!

LET'S MAKE THE NEXT FEW MINUTES COUNT, EVERYONE!
REMEMBER OUR PLAN!
WORK AS A TEAM! DON'T LET UP ON ECLIPSO FOR A SECOND!
YOU DARE LAY HANDS ON ME, WOMAN?
ARE YOU MAD??
YES, I AM MAD...
...WE ARE ALL MADDER THAN ANYTHING--
--AND WE'RE NOT--
;ARRRGH;
ZZAK
--GOING TO TAKE IT FROM YOU--
--ANYMORE!!

STRATA, LOOK OUT!
HE'S GOING TO--
--GIVE YOU A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!
UH OH
POOM
--OUR OWN BLASTS--
CRACKLE
STRATA'S ROCK-HARD BODY IS--
--RICOCHETING--
--RIGHT BACK IN OUR FACES!
FWOOSH!
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
TIME TO SEE HOW "PLAN B" IS COMING ALONG...
OR MAYBE I SHOULD CALL IT PLAN "E"!


HOW MUCH LONGER, METAMORPHO?
ALMOST... ONE... THREE... PHASE!
I'VE PRIMED THIS THING...
...AND IT'S ABOUT READY TO BLOW!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
METAMORPHO HAS SUCCEEDED, ECLIPSO.
THE ERUPTION IS UPON US!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE ELEMENT MAN IS THE ONE BEHIND THIS--
--ERUPTION?
NO! SUPERMAN'S X-RAY VISION SHOWS ME THAT THE SUN HAS YET TO SET!
I MUST NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BE EJECTED FROM THE VOLCANO!
I'LL BURROW DEEPER, AWAY FROM THE ACCURSED DAYLIGHT!
UH, NO YOU WON'T, CHUM--
--NOT IF YER DEAR OLD SPARRING PARTNER HAS ANYTHING T'SAY ABOUT IT!
AN' I GOT A WHOLE LOT TO SAY, SO STICK AROUND!


HEY!
FOR A GUY WITH SUPER-HEARING, YOU DON'T LISTEN TOO GOOD!
RELEASE ME, INSECT.
I HAVE NO TIME TO SWAT YOU AGAIN!
I HATE TO BREAK THIS TO YA, FRAGFACE--
--BUT WHAT YOU GOT HERE IS A PERMANENT INFESTATION.
THIS TIME I WILL CRUSH YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
WORDS!
YER LAST WORDS, HOTSHOT!
LOBO HAS ECLIPSO ON THE ROPES, METAMORPHO!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
:NNNGHHRR:
GOOD THING... I WORK WELL UNDER PRESSURE!
RUMMBLE-RUMMBLE

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WOW!
DID ANYBODY REMEMBER TO BRING THE MARSHMALLOWS?
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE THEY DOING IN THERE??
WHATEVER IT IS--
--THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE DOING IT MUCH LONGER!
HANG ON TO HIM!
THIS PLACE IS READY TO BLOW!
THE SUN IS SINKING BENEATH THE HORIZON!
HEY!
EVERYBODY GET LOST! I'VE GOT A PRIVATE SCORE T'SETTLE HERE!
METAMORPHO DID IT!
HE TRIGGERED A VOLCANIC ERUPTION!!
WHOOOOM

KABOOM!

THESE ACCURSED HUMANS!
THEIR INGENUITY CONTINUES TO ASTOUND ME!
FORTUNATELY, THEY ARE TOO LATE!
THE SUN HAS ALREADY VANISHED FROM SIGHT!
WHEREAS THE MOON...
...WILL SOON BE IN TOTAL ECLIPSE!
ENSURING MY TRIUMPH!
ONCE THE LUNAR ECLIPSE IS COMPLETE, MY POWER WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE!
PLANET EARTH WILL AGAIN BE WITHIN MY GRASP!

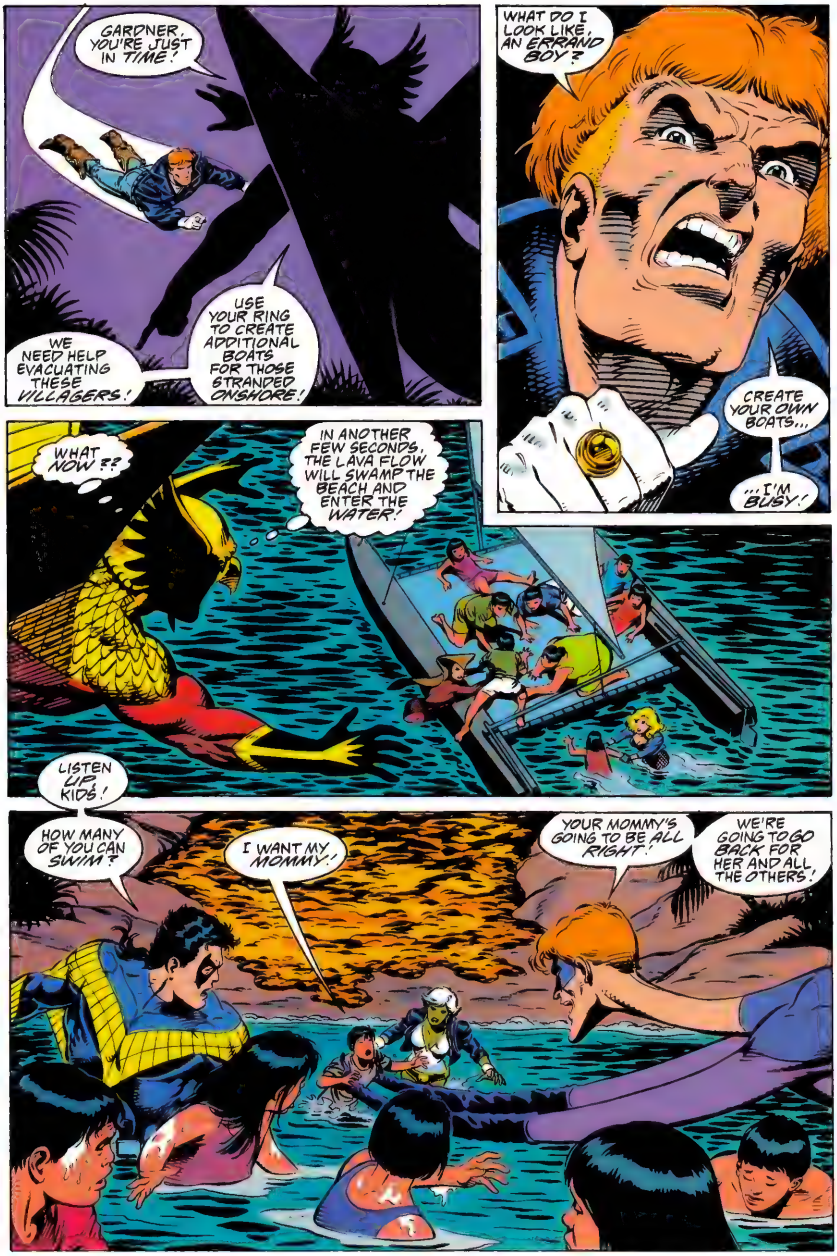
METAMORPHO!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I FEEL LIKE A MOUNTAIN JUST LANDED ON ME!
LOOK, OUT!
-NNGH-
SPLAT!
THERE THEY ARE!
ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?
I WAS... UNTIL THE LITTLE LADY LANDED ON ME!
WAIT--! WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN?
"AND WHERE'S LOBO?"
YOO HOO
HUH?
REMEMBER ME?
KRAK!

I'M THE GUY WHO'S GONNA PUT OUT YOUR LIGHTS, ECLIPSO--
--PERMANENTLY!
WAM!
:ARRGH:
AND I GET TO KILL SUPERMAN AT THE SAME TIME!
FEETAL'S GIZZARD!
FOOL!
YOUR INCESSANT PRATTLING WILL PROVE YOUR UNDOING!

RUN FOR THE BEACH!
THE LAVA IS MOVING THIS WAY!
YOU HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!
WHY ARE THEY JUST STANDING THERE?!
THEY'RE IN SHOCK!
IT'S UP TO US TO ROUND THEM UP AND GET THEM TO SAFETY!
AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THOSE STRUCTURES, PEOPLE...
...WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANYBODY BEHIND!

YEOOWW!
THAT'S IT, WILDEBEEST!
HOLD UP THAT COLLAPSING WALL UNTIL WE GET THESE PEOPLE SAFELY PAST!
THIS WAY, EVERYONE!
WADE OUT TO THE BOATS!
ZEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST, S'IL-VOUS PLAIT!
DON'T WORRY!
YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY SAFE ONCE WE GET YOU OFFSHORE!

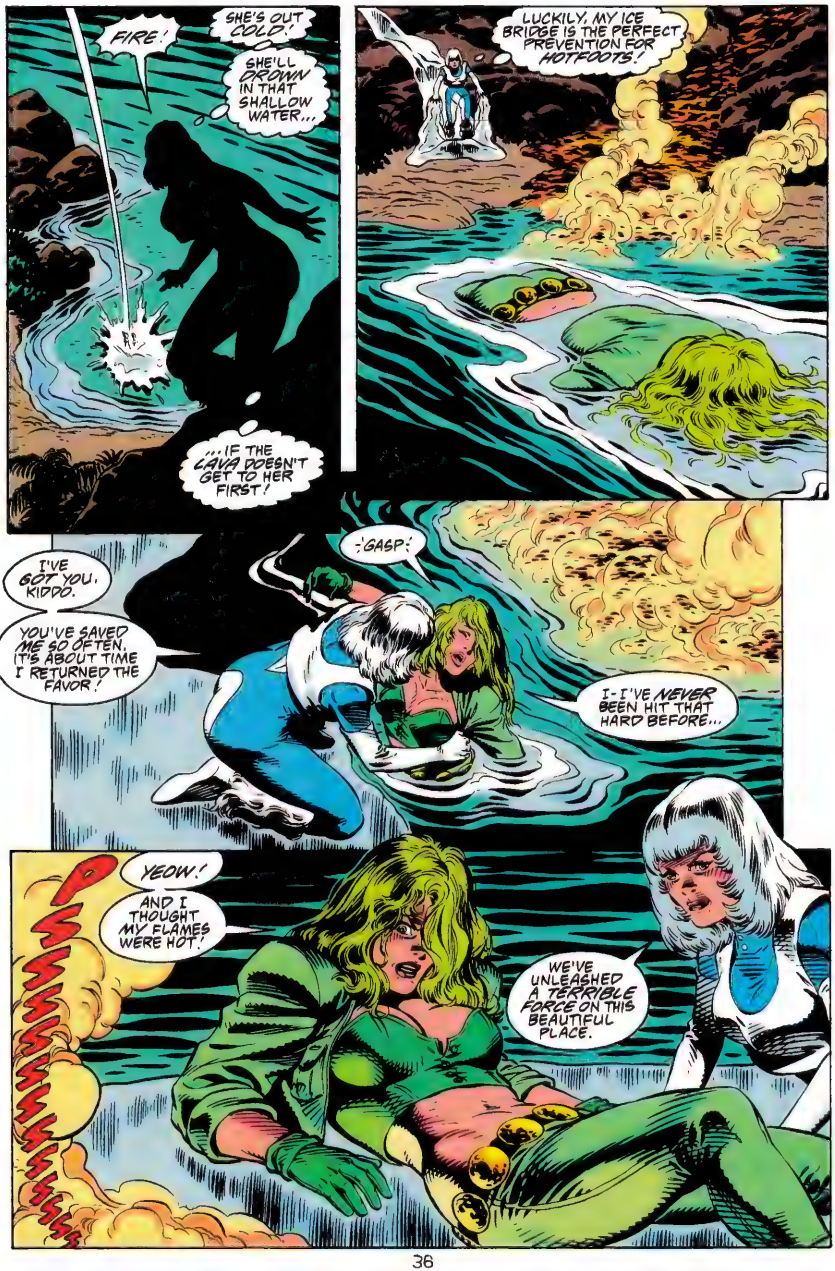
I DON'T KNOW, CHIEF DOX...
...YOU SLAPPED THIS LITTLE GUY PRETTY HARD!
AND IT DIDN'T WORK, WHICH IS WHY I ASKED YOU TO USE YOUR ICE TO REVIVE HIM!
YOUR TURN, GARDNER...
FAP
...WAKE UP!!
HUH?
WHAT?
YOU TOLD US THIS RING OF YOURS CONTAINS NO IMPURITIES!
UNLIKE THE GREEN LANTERN POWER RINGS, IT'LL WORK AGAINST ANYTHING YELLOW!
WHICH MEANS YOU CAN GO TO THE SUN AND BRING BACK ENOUGH OF ITS BURNING GASES TO DEFEAT ECLIPSO!
ARE YOU NUTS?!! IT'S HOT ON THE SUN!
BESIDES WHICH, I DON'T TAKE ORDERS ANYMORE FROM ANYONE WHO'S GREEN!
REMEMBER YOUR OATH, GUY... "IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT..."
IT USED TO MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU!
LISTEN TO HER, MAN!
THIS IS THAT BLACKEST NIGHT!
...I JUST QUIT THAT PARTICULAR BOY SCOUT TROOP!
YOU'RE WASTIN' YOUR BREATH, PAL...


GARDNER, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
WE NEED HELP EVACUATING THESE VILLAGERS!
USE YOUR RING TO CREATE ADDITIONAL BOATS FOR THOSE STRANDED ONSHORE!
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, AN ERRAND BOY?
CREATE YOUR OWN BOATS...
...I'M BUSY!
WHAT NOW??
IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, THE LAVA FLOW WILL SWAMP THE BEACH AND ENTER THE WATER!
LISTEN UP, KIDS!
HOW MANY OF YOU CAN SWIM?
I WANT MY MOMMY!
YOUR MOMMY'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE GOING TO GO BACK FOR HER AND ALL THE OTHERS!

GO CAREFULLY, GREAT ONES...
...THE WATER IS SHALLOW HERE, BUT YOU MUST SWIM CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHORE...
...TO ALLOW THE VILLAGERS TO CLIMB ONTO YOUR BROAD BACKS!
AQUAMAN!
YOU'VE SAVED THE DAY!
HANG ON, FOLKS!
DID WE GET THEM ALL, BLACK CANARY?
THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM, RALPH... AND NONE TOO SOON!
I WONDER HOW THE OTHERS ARE DOING--

"--AGAINST SUPERMAN."
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
YOU'VE GONE AND MADE ME MAD!
LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THIS!!
KA-LUNK!
FINE.
KK-CLANK CLANK
HEY!
THOSE CHAINS COST MONEY!
YOU...
...IMBECYLE!!
KRAK
:OOF:
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT I REPRESENT??

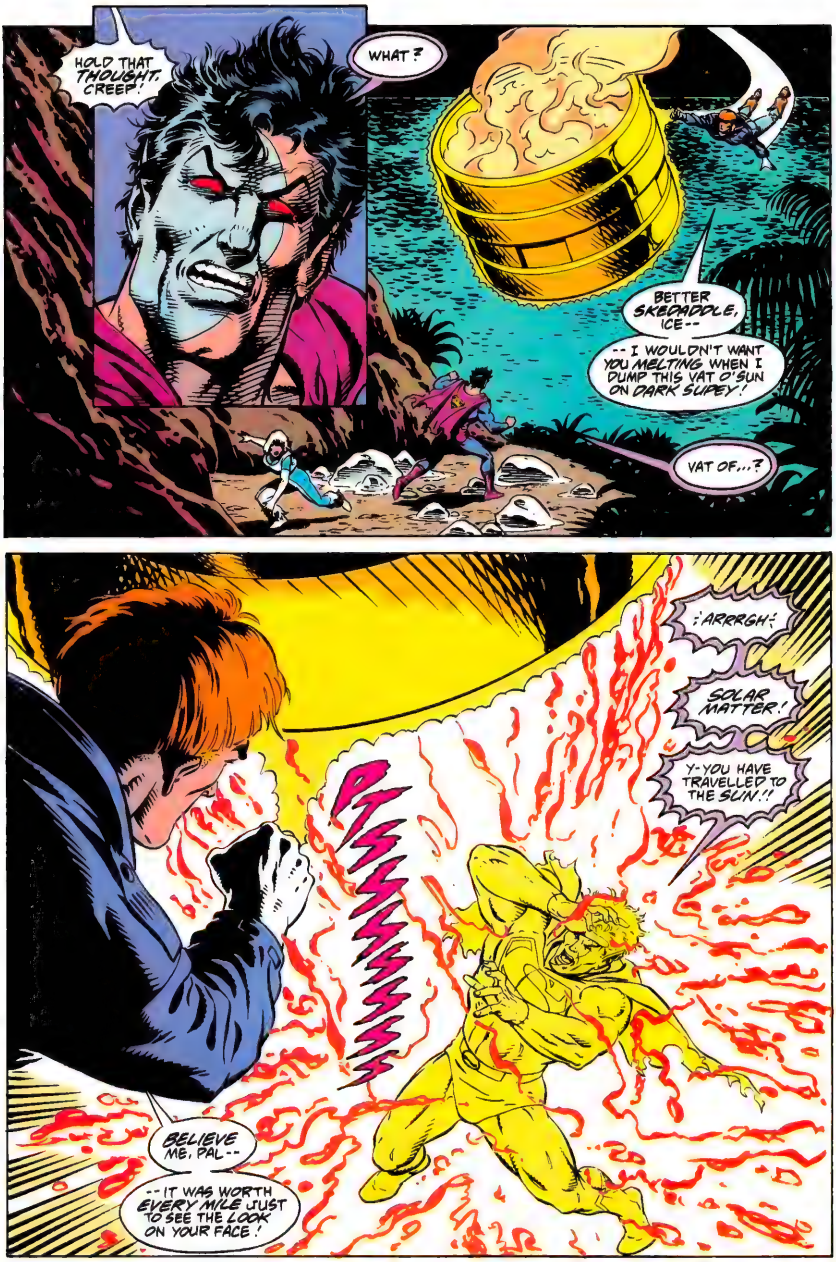
ARRRGH!
YOU REPRESENT EVERYTHING WE OPPOSE, ECLIPSO!
...UNTIL EVERY DECENT PERSON IS FREE OF YOUR INFLUENCE!
WE'LL NEVER REST...
LOBO?
LOBO!
LOOK OUT, FIRE!
HE HIT HER SO HARD--
--HE BLEW OUT HER FLAME!
HE'S BARELY BREATHING!
THAT IS MY ANSWER TO YOUR PATHETIC SHOW OF BRAVADO!
I EXIST IN EVERY PERSON, DECENT OR NOT!
YOU WILL NEVER BE RID OF ME!
I'VE NEVER SEEN LOBO IN SUCH BAD SHAPE!

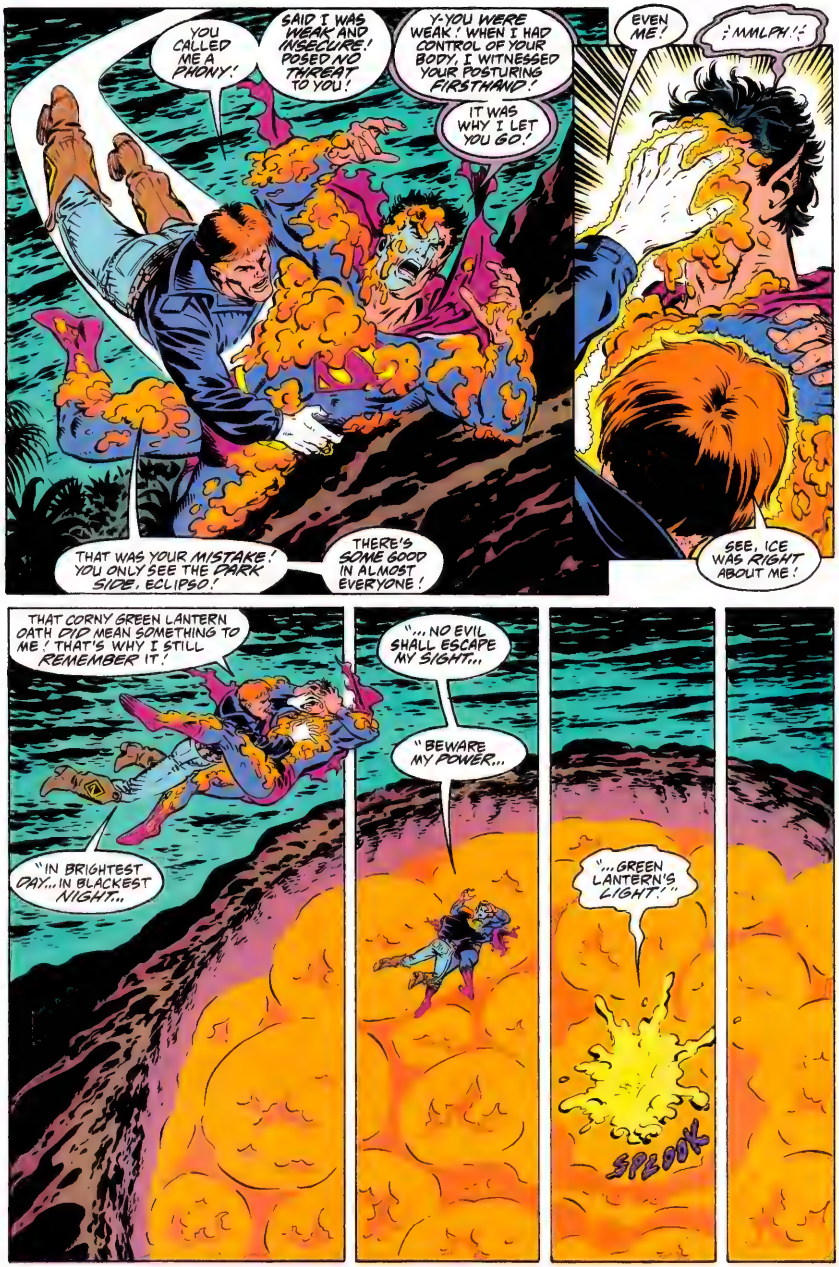

FIRE!
SHE'S OUT COLD!
SHE'LL DROWN IN THAT SHALLOW WATER...
...IF THE LAVA DOESN'T GET TO HER FIRST!
LUCKILY, MY ICE BRIDGE IS THE PERFECT PREVENTION FOR HOTFOOTS!
:GASP:
I'VE GOT YOU, KIDDO.
YOU'VE SAVED ME SO OFTEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME I RETURNED THE FAVOR!
I-I'VE NEVER BEEN HIT THAT HARD BEFORE...
YEOW!
AND I THOUGHT MY FLAMES WERE HOT!
PSSS

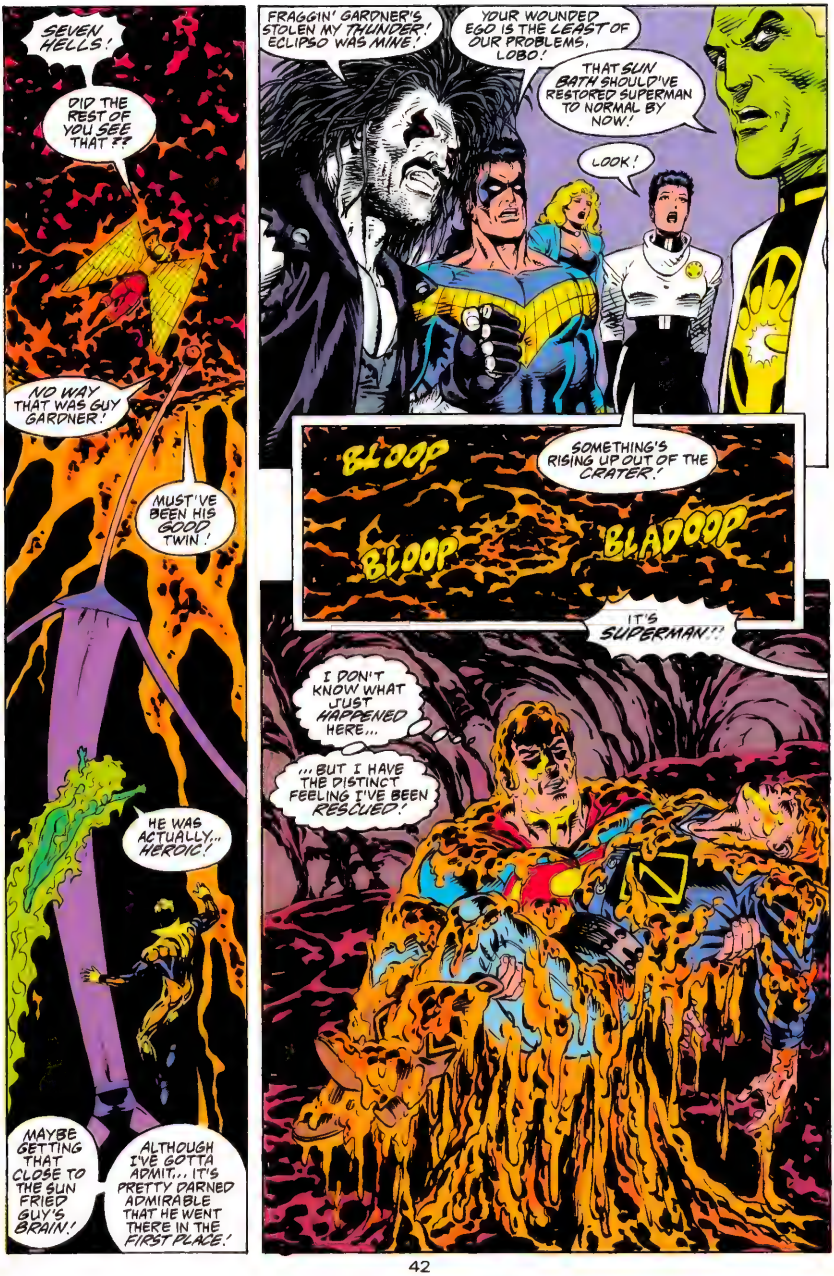
HUMAN NATURE IS ON MY SIDE!
IT HASN'T CHANGED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!
:UNGH: THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...
...HE JUST SHORTED OUT MY FORCE FIELD AND FLIGHT RING!
WE HOLD A DIFFERENT VIEW OF MANKIND, ECLIPSO!
SHIZZT
OWW
PRECISELY!
THIS IS WHY YOU ARE DOOMED!
I'VE GOT YOU, BOOSTER GOLD.
THANKS, STRATA...
...YOU'RE MY KINDA WOMAN!
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE DARKNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART, "HERO."
EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND!
OH... GOD!
SO... COLD!

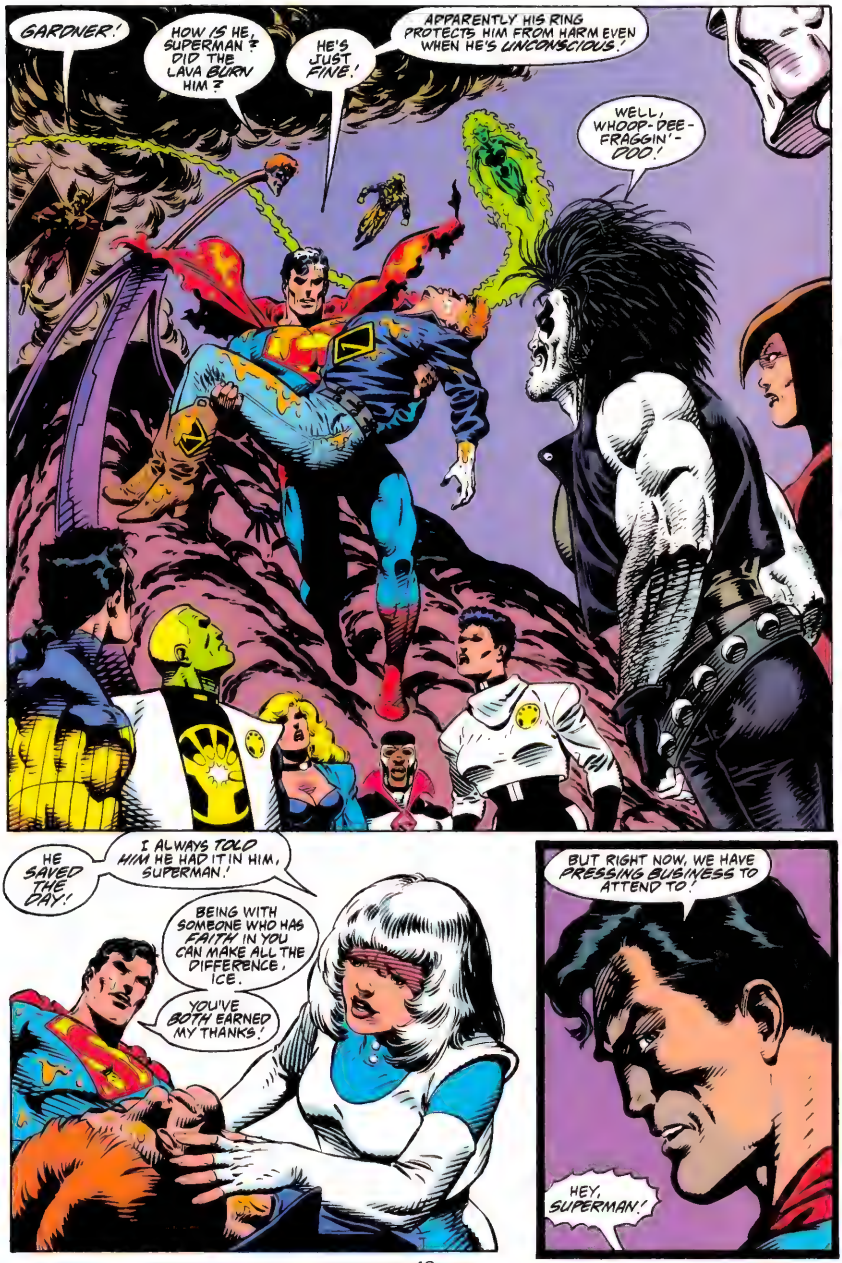
BLOODWYND, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT DID ECLIPSO DO TO YOU??
F-F-FREEZING COLD...
...COLD AND D-DARK.'
RELAX, CHUM, HELP IS ON THE--
:SQUAWK:
METAMORPHO?!'
OH, LORD...
...ECLIPSO IS PICKING US OFF LIKE DUCKS IN A SHOOTING GALLERY.'
YOU HAVE A WAY WITH A PHRASE... PHASE.
I THINK I'LL SAVE YOU FOR LAST.'

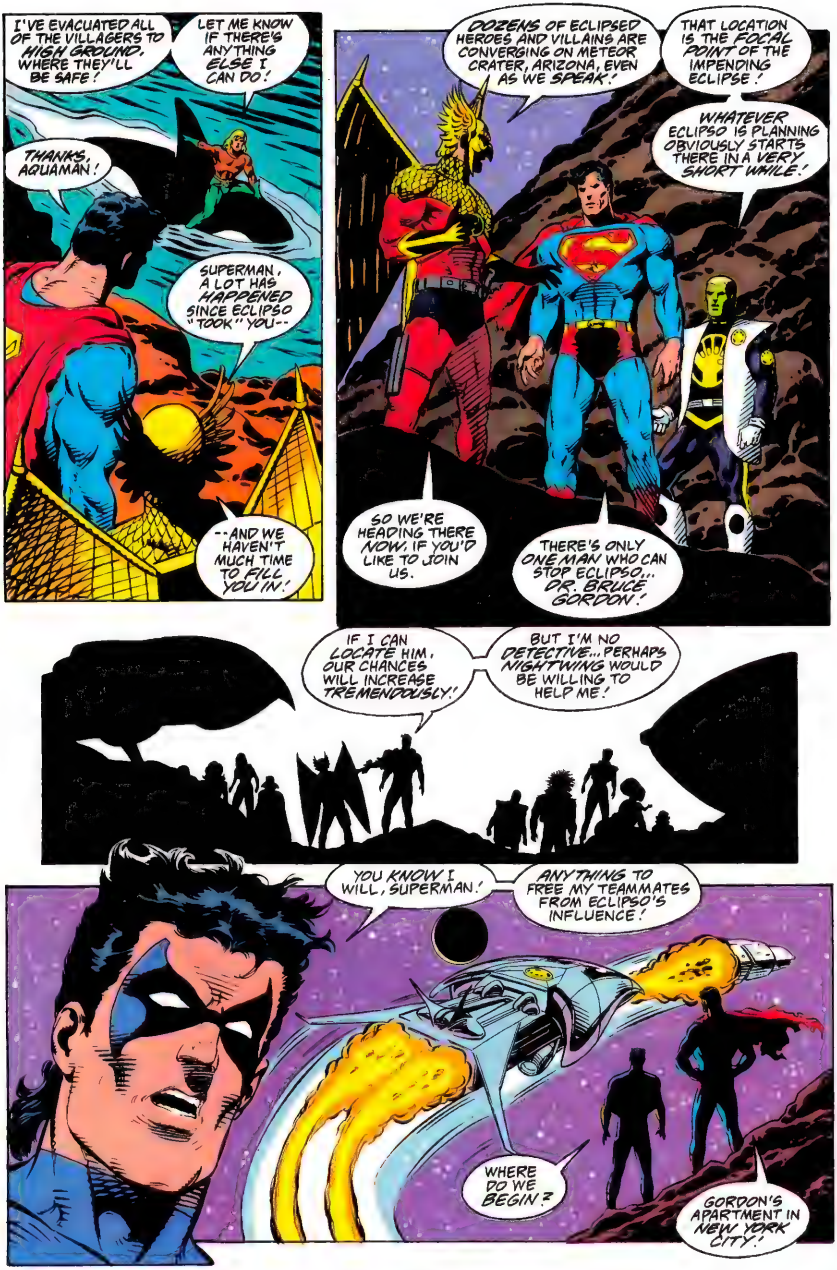
NOW, WHERE WAS I?
OH, YES, I WAS ABOUT TO FRY ANOTHER LOSER WITH ONE OF THE KRYPTONIAN'S AMAZING ABILITIES!
FSSSS
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
MY ICE SHIELD SHOULD HOLD HIM!
IT'S GOT TO HOLD HIM!
AS I SAID..
"...AMAZING ABILITIES!
KA-RAK!
OHH!
D-DON'T HURT ME!!
OH, THIS WON'T HURT A BIT!
I'M GOING TO PULL YOUR HEART OUT OF YOUR CHEST SO QUICKLY THAT YOU WON'T FEEL A THING!
READY?
NO... PLEASE!

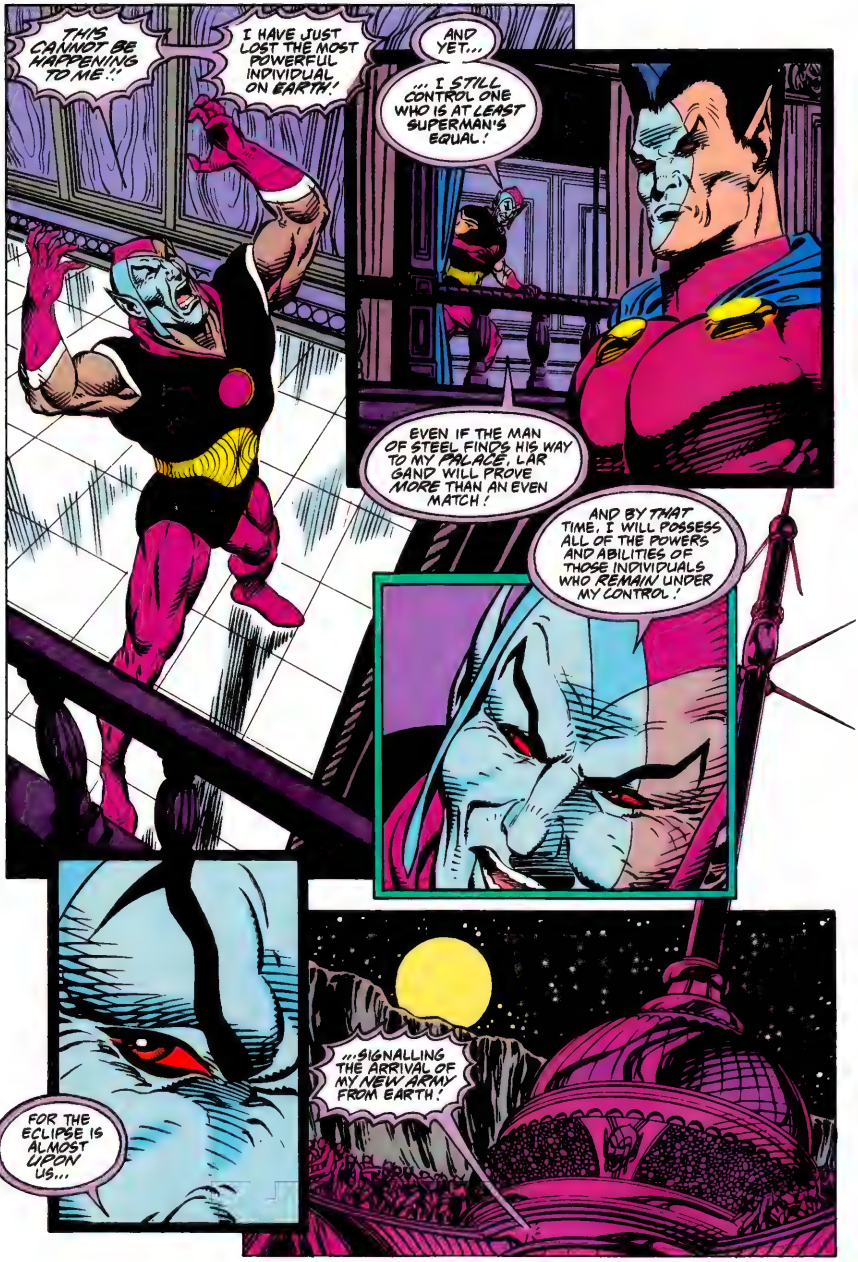

HOLD THAT THOUGHT, CREEP!
WHAT?
BETTER SKEDADDLE, ICE--
--I WOULDN'T WANT YOU MELTING WHEN I DUMP THIS VAT O'SUN ON DARK SLIPEY!
VAT OF...?
:ARRRGH:
SOLAR MATTER!
Y-YOU HAVE TRAVELLED TO THE SUN!!?
FWWWWWWW
BELIEVE ME, PAL--
--IT WAS WORTH EVERY MILE JUST TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE!


YOU CALLED ME A PHONY!
SAID I WAS WEAK AND INSECURE! POSED NO THREAT TO YOU!
Y-YOU WERE WEAK! WHEN I HAD CONTROL OF YOUR BODY, I WITNESSED YOUR POSTURING FIRSTHAND!
IT WAS WHY I LET YOU GO!
EVEN ME!
:MMLPH!:
THAT WAS YOUR MISTAKE! YOU ONLY SEE THE DARK SIDE, ECLIPSO!
THERE'S SOME GOOD IN ALMOST EVERYONE!
SEE, ICE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ME!
THAT CORNY GREEN LANTERN OATH DID MEAN SOMETHING TO ME! THAT'S WHY I STILL REMEMBER IT!
"IN BRIGHTEST DAY...IN BLACKEST NIGHT...
"...NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT...
"BEWARE MY POWER...
"...GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!"
SPLOOK


SEVEN HELLS!
DID THE REST OF YOU SEE THAT??
NO WAY THAT WAS GUY GARDNER!
MUST'VE BEEN HIS GOOD TWIN.
HE WAS ACTUALLY... HEROIC!
MAYBE GETTING THAT CLOSE TO THE SUN FRIED GUY'S BRAIN!
ALTHOUGH I'VE GOTTA ADMIT... IT'S PRETTY DARNED ADMIRABLE THAT HE WENT THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
FRAGGIN' GARDNER'S STOLEN MY THUNDER! ECLIPSO WAS MINE!
YOUR WOUNDED EGO IS THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS, LOBO!
THAT SUN BATH SHOULD'VE RESTORED SUPERMAN TO NORMAL BY NOW!
LOOK!
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLADOOP
SOMETHING'S RISING UP OUT OF THE CRATER!
IT'S SUPERMAN??
I DON'T KNOW WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE...
...BUT I HAVE THE DISTINCT FEELING I'VE BEEN RESCUED!


GARDNER!
HOW IS HE, SUPERMAN? DID THE LAVA BURN HIM?
HE'S JUST FINE.
APPARENTLY HIS RING PROTECTS HIM FROM HARM EVEN WHEN HE'S UNCONSCIOUS.
WELL, WHOOP-DEE-FRAGGIN'-DOO.
HE SAVED THE DAY!
I ALWAYS TOLD HIM HE HAD IT IN HIM, SUPERMAN.
BEING WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS FAITH IN YOU CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE, ICE.
YOU'VE BOTH EARNED MY THANKS!
BUT RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE PRESSING BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
HEY, SUPERMAN!


I'VE EVACUATED ALL OF THE VILLAGERS TO HIGH GROUND, WHERE THEY'LL BE SAFE!
LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO!
THANKS, AQUAMAN!
SUPERMAN, A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE ECLIPSO "TOOK" YOU--
--AND WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO FILL YOU IN!
DOZENS OF ECLIPSED HEROES AND VILLAINS ARE CONVERGING ON METEOR CRATER, ARIZONA, EVEN AS WE SPEAK!
THAT LOCATION IS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE IMPENDING ECLIPSE!
WHATEVER ECLIPSO IS PLANNING OBVIOUSLY STARTS THERE IN A VERY SHORT WHILE!
SO WE'RE HEADING THERE NOW. IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US.
THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN STOP ECLIPSO... DR. BRUCE GORDON!
IF I CAN LOCATE HIM, OUR CHANCES WILL INCREASE TREMENDOUSLY!
BUT I'M NO DETECTIVE... PERHAPS NIGHTWING WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP ME!
YOU KNOW I WILL, SUPERMAN!
ANYTHING TO FREE MY TEAMMATES FROM ECLIPSO'S INFLUENCE!
WHERE DO WE BEGIN?
GORDON'S APARTMENT IN NEW YORK CITY!


THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING TO ME!!
I HAVE JUST LOST THE MOST POWERFUL INDIVIDUAL ON EARTH!
AND YET...
...I STILL CONTROL ONE WHO IS AT LEAST SUPERMAN'S EQUAL!
EVEN IF THE MAN OF STEEL FINDS HIS WAY TO MY PALACE, LAR GAND WILL PROVE MORE THAN AN EVEN MATCH!
AND BY THAT TIME, I WILL POSSESS ALL OF THE POWERS AND ABILITIES OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO REMAIN UNDER MY CONTROL!
...SIGNALLING THE ARRIVAL OF MY NEW ARMY FROM EARTH!
FOR THE ECLIPSE IS ALMOST UPON US...

WE ARE ALL HERE--
--EXCEPT FOR STARMAN--
--WHO RAPIDLY APPROACHES!
MY PLAN DEPENDS--
--ON USING HIS SHAPESHIFTING ABILITY--
--TO FOOL THE REST OF THE HEROES--
--INTO FOLLOWING THIS GROUP TO THE MOON--
--WHERE I CAN TAKE ALL OF THEM--
--WITH EASE!

BUT FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, THE HEROES MUST BE CONVINCED THAT STARMAN IS A WORTHY LEADER!
I BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THEM SUSPECT ME--
--OR AT THE VERY LEAST, DOUBT WHETHER STARMAN HIMSELF CAN BE COUNTED ON IN BATTLE.
THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE HIS BRAVERY WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ALLAYING ANY FEARS THAT HE MAY BE WORKING WITH US!
FIRST I WILL USE STARMAN'S SHAPESHIFTING ABILITY TO RESTORE HIS NORMAL FACE AND VOICE...
...AND THEN THE REST OF YOU WILL TRY TO KILL ME!
ROOAR
DEATH TO STARMAN!
IF WE CANNOT CORRUPT HIM, WE WILL KILL HIM!
HE IS OUR MORTAL ENEMY!

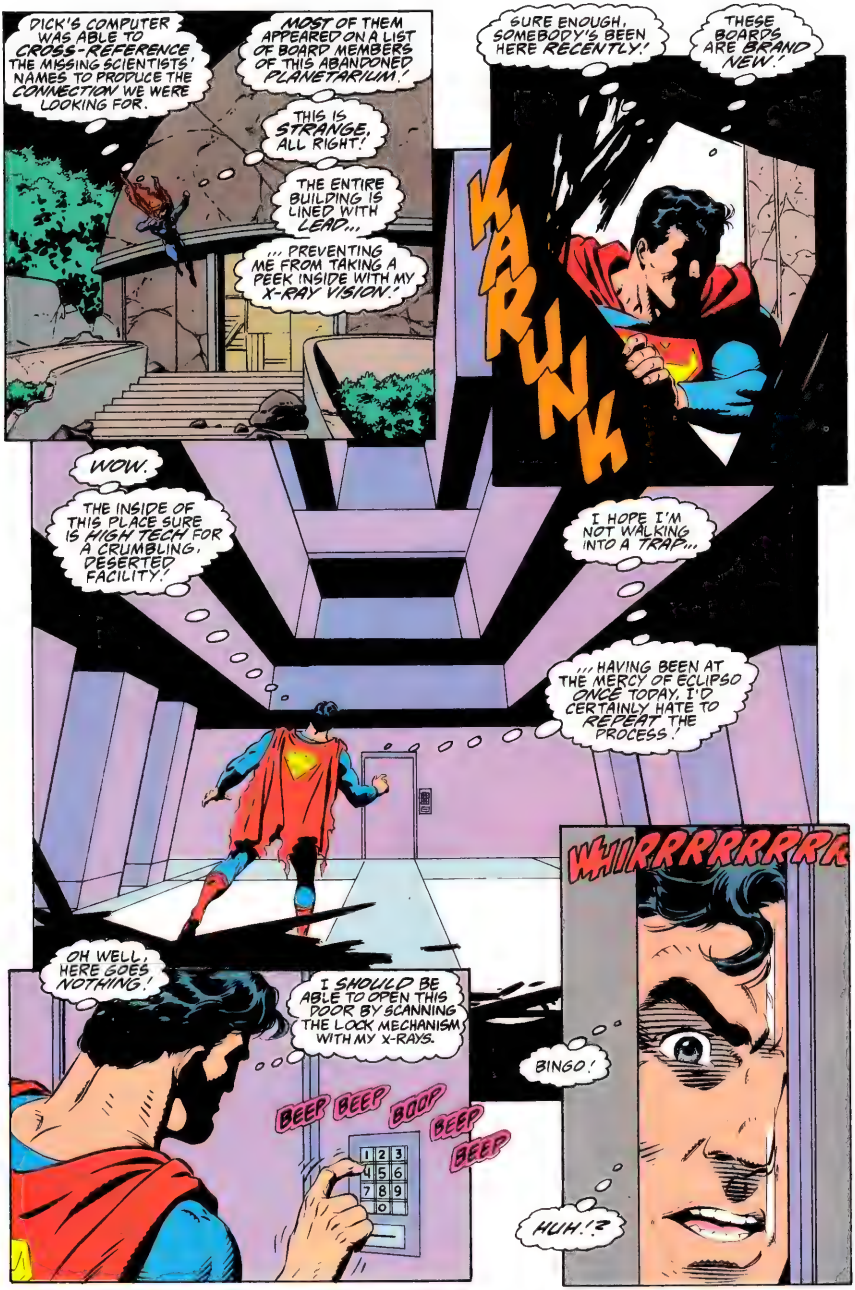
HEY! BACK OFF, ECLIPSO!
ONE AGAINST FIFTEEN IS LOUSY ODDS!
WAP
POOM
OH, THANK GOD...
DON'T THOSE POINTY EARS WORK? WE SAID LEAVE STARMAN ALONE!
MY FLAME CAN'T HURT THEM, BUT MAYBE IT'LL PROVIDE ENOUGH OF A DISTRACTION FOR HAWKMAN TO--
GOTCHA, STARMAN!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, SON.

ECLIPSO'S... TRUE FORM... RESIDES IN A PALACE ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON!
ONLY BY DESTROYING HIS POWER THERE... CAN ECLIPSO EVER BE TRULY DEFEATED!
THE MOON!
THEN WE HAVE HIM!
IT WOULDN'T HURT TO FORMULATE A PLAN, HAWKMAN.
THE JLA CRUISER ISN'T 'SPACEWORTHY' BUT I HEARD ONE OF THE OTHERS TALKING ABOUT MAXIMA'S SPACESHIP.
IS IT DRY-DOCKED IN NEW YORK?
ALL GASSED UP AND READY TO FLY. BUT MAXIMA'S THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO CAN PILOT THE THING!
I'M SURE I COULD HANDLE IT...
...UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE L.E.G.I.O.N. SHIP CAN ACCOMMODATE US ALL.
NO.
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE'RE GOING TO NEED BOTH TRANSPORTS...
"...SO YOU'D BETTER GET GOING, HAWKMAN.
"THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE."

YOU SEE, DICK, DR. GORDON IS THE SOLAR SCIENTIST WHO FIRST ENCOUNTERED ECLIPSO.
THERE SEEMS TO BE A KIND OF YIN / YANG BOND BETWEEN THEM.
AND YOU SAY THAT GORDON SIMPLY VANISHED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO?
YES, RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF THIS CURRENT ECLIPSO CRISIS!
WHAT'S MORE, SEVERAL OTHER SCIENTISTS ARE MISSING, UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES!
MOST OF THEM HAD SOME SORT OF BACKGROUND IN SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, MAKING THEM IDEAL TARGETS FOR ECLIPSO!
BATMAN TAUGHT ME NEVER TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS UNTIL ALL THE FACTS ARE IN, SUPERMAN!
THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE, DICK.
I KNOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS THING!
ONCE WE'VE SIFTED ALL THE EVIDENCE, A THEORY WILL PRESENT ITSELF!
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT!
HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING USEFUL?
NO SIGN OF A STRUGGLE...
IF GORDON DID MEET WITH FOUL PLAY, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN HERE!
TAKE ME TO THOSE OTHER LOCATIONS, SUPERMAN!
I'M BETTING THAT WHAT I'VE LEARNED HERE WILL PROVE RELEVANT IN THE CASES OF THE OTHER MISSING SCIENTISTS!
HOLD ON!
NEXT STOP... EMIL HAMILTON'S LABORATORY IN HOBBS BAY, METROPOLIS!

THIS PLACE WAS VACATED FAST. FROM THE SMELL OF GRAPHITE, I CAN TELL THAT THIS MACHINE WAS TURNED OFF IN MID-CYCLE.
AND THERE WAS A MAN HERE WITH CURLY RED HAIR...
THAT WOULD BE LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND. HE'S GONE MISSING, ALSO.
ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT HERE IN DOC MAGNUS'S DESERTED QUARTERS?
SAME AS THE OTHERS.
HE LEFT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SMOKE, WITHOUT EVEN BOTHERING TO EXTINGUISH IT.
BUT AGAIN, NO SIGN OF A STRUGGLE.
MAYBE WE'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK AT BLUE BEETLE'S WORKSHOP IN JLA HEADQUARTERS...
NOPE.
JUST THE SAME PATTERN WE'VE SEEN EVERYWHERE ELSE.
HE WAS WORKING ON A SOLAR PROJECT, WASN'T HE?
THEY ALL WERE, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE LINK, DOESN'T IT, DICK?
DICK?

IN HERE, SUPERMAN.
I WAS RIGHT! THE EVIDENCE I PICKED UP IN GORDON'S APARTMENT WAS CRUCIAL!
HE'S BEEN AT ALL THE LOCATIONS WE'VE VISITED TODAY!
... SO THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM!
WHAT DOES THAT SUGGEST TO YOU?
WELL, FOR STARTERS, IT MEANS THAT HE KNEW ALL OF THE OTHER MISSING PEOPLE...
TAP TAP TAP
LET'S SEE... GORDON AND HIS MENTOR PROFESSOR BENNET... HAMILTON AND LUTHOR... MAGNUS ... BLUE BEETLE, KILOWOG, DR. LIGHT, CHUNK, ZENA MOONSTRUK...
SUPERMAN! NIGHTWING!
I'M ON MY WAY TO PICK UP MAXIMA'S SPACESHIP!
WE'RE PLANNING TO STRIKE ECLIPSO AT HIS PALACE ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON!
WHAT ABOUT THE TITANS? HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?
THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING THEM RIGHT NOW, AT METEOR CRATER!
IF YOU'RE COMING, I'M LEAVING IMMEDIATELY!
SUPERMAN, MY FIRST DUTY IS TO MY TEAMMATES!
I HATE TO LEAVE YOU IN THE LURCH, BUT I HAVE COMPUTED A POSSIBLE LEAD FOR YOU TO TRACK DOWN!
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, NIGHTWING... YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART!
THIS...
... IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN.


DICK'S COMPUTER WAS ABLE TO CROSS-REFERENCE THE MISSING SCIENTISTS' NAMES TO PRODUCE THE CONNECTION WE WERE LOOKING FOR.
MOST OF THEM APPEARED ON A LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS OF THIS ABANDONED PLANETARIUM.'
THIS IS STRANGE, ALL RIGHT!
THE ENTIRE BUILDING IS LINED WITH LEAD...
...PREVENTING ME FROM TAKING A PEEK INSIDE WITH MY X-RAY VISION!
SURE ENOUGH, SOMEBODY'S BEEN HERE RECENTLY!
THESE BOARDS ARE BRAND NEW!
KARUNK
WOW.
THE INSIDE OF THIS PLACE SURE IS HIGH TECH FOR A CRUMBLING, DESERTED FACILITY.'
I HOPE I'M NOT WALKING INTO A TRAP...
...HAVING BEEN AT THE MERCY OF ECLIPSO ONCE TODAY, I'D CERTAINLY HATE TO REPEAT THE PROCESS!
OH WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN THIS DOOR BY SCANNING THE LOCK MECHANISM WITH MY X-RAYS.
BEEP BEEP BOOP BEEP BEEP
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
WHIRRRRRRRR
BINGO!
HUH!?

TO BE CONCLUDED IN:

ECLIPSO

THE DARKNESS WITHIN

#2 ON SALE SOON!

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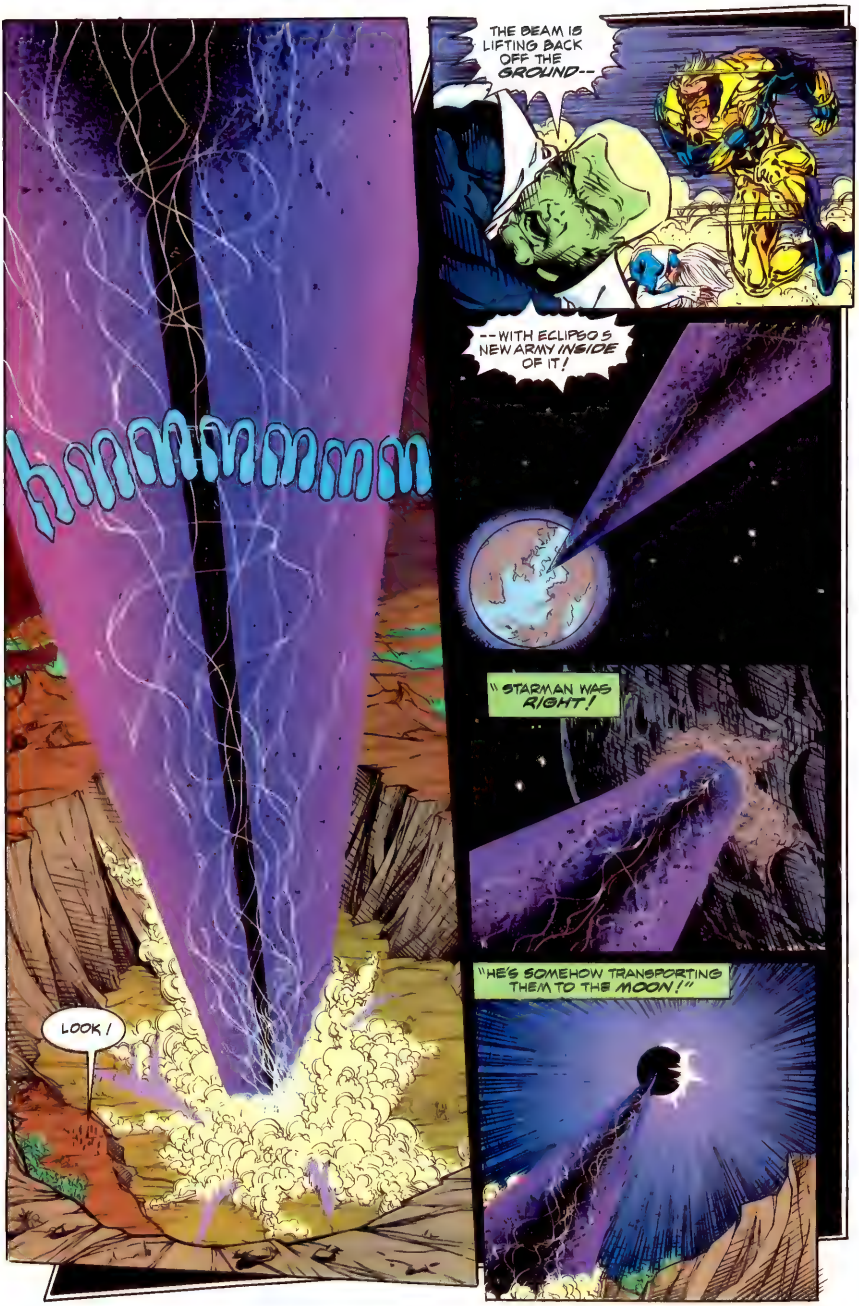
GEEZ, THAT'S REALLY CREEPY!
THEY'RE ALL TALKING, BUT I CAN ONLY HEAR ONE VOICE!
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL THE SAME PERSON, BOOSTER!
ECLIPSO IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THEIR BODIES AND MINDS!
IT'S PATHETIC, REALLY...
...YOU'D THINK EARTH'S "MIGHTIEST HEROES" WOULD'VE BEEN MADE OF STERNER STUFF!

I TOOK THOSE THAT WERE WORTH TAKING, VRIL DOX!
IT JUST SO HAPPENS YOU WERE NOT AMONG THEM!
YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE TO REGRET THAT MISTAKE, ECLIPSO!
YOU ARE TOO LATE! THE FULL ECLIPSE IS ALMOST UPON US!
HAWKMAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT?
SEVEN HELLS, DOX! HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
ASK ECLIPSO!
GREAT! WE'RE BEING LED BY A FRAGGIN' COMEDY TEAM!
WHAT'S "FRAGGIN'"?
YOU WILL HAVE THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, VRIL DOX--
--RIGHT NOW!

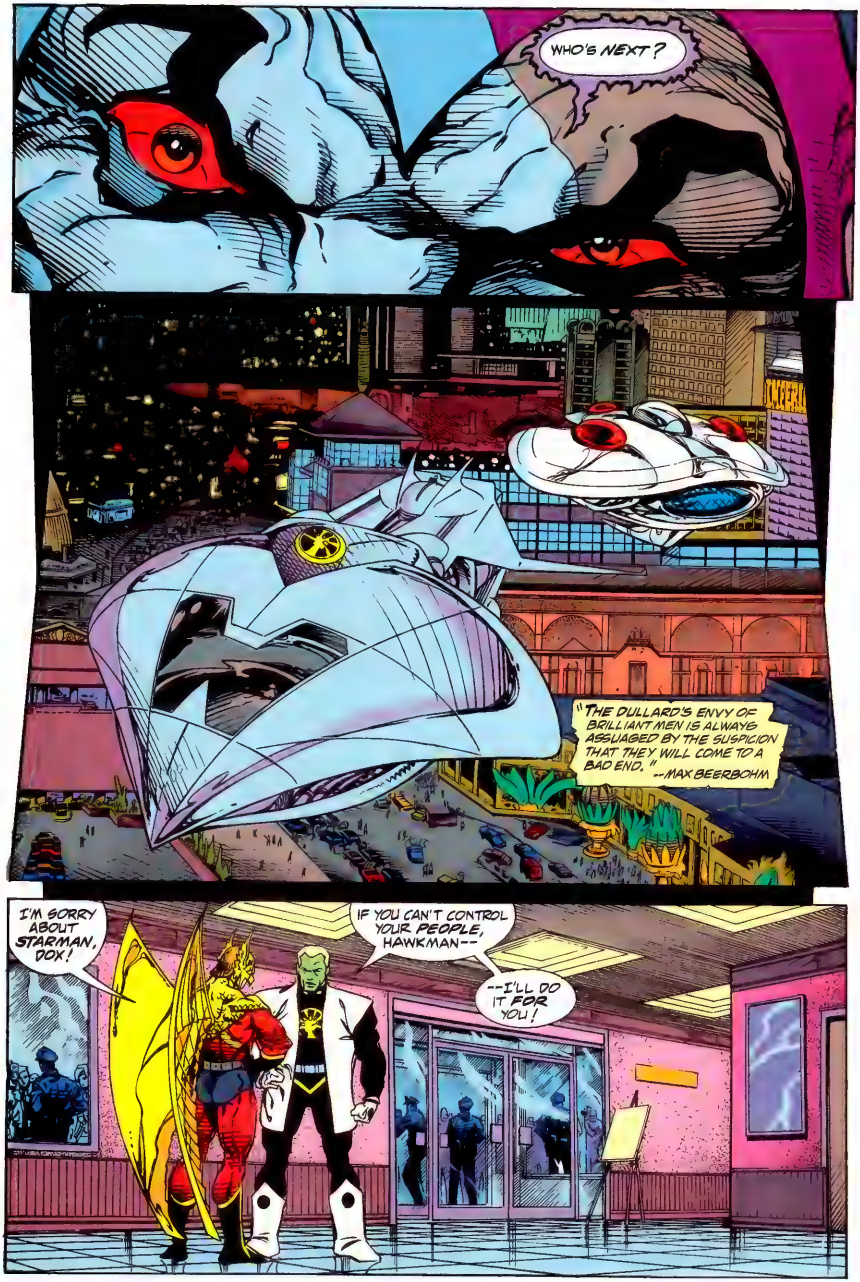
FOR IN THE TUNNEL OF UTTER DARKNESS WHICH NOW STRETCHES FROM EARTH TO MOON...
...MY POWER REIGNS SUPREME!
HUMM
MMMM
WHAT IS IT?!
THE SHEER FORCE OF THAT BEAM...
...IS UNBELIEVABLE!
ECLIPSO IS TELEPORTING HIS MIND-SLAVES TO THE MOON.
IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER!
IF ECLIPSO CAN DO THIS...
...WHAT CHANCE DO ANY OF US STAND AGAINST HIM?


hmmmmm
LOOK!
THE BEAM IS LIFTING BACK OFF THE GROUND--
--WITH ECLIPSO'S NEW ARMY INSIDE OF IT!
"STARMAN WAS RIGHT!
"HE'S SOMEHOW TRANSPORTING THEM TO THE MOON!"

WHICH LEAVES US... WHERE?
OUTCLASSED!
THIS IS A DEFINITE SETBACK, I'LL ADMIT.
WE'LL HAVE TO CONSIDER OUR NEXT MOVE, CAREFULLY!
WHAT'S TO CONSIDER?
WE HAVE TO FOLLOW ECLIPSO TO THE MOON!
DON'T BE OBVIOUS, STARMAN!
VRIL DOX LITTLE REALIZES THAT HE IS ARGUING WITH ECLIPSO!
BY CAPTURING STARMAN AND USING HIS SHAPE-SHIFTING POWERS TO ERADICATE ALL TRACE OF MY PRESENCE...
...I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN INFILTRATING THE ENEMY CAMP!
AS STARMAN, I WILL LEAD THEM TO MY PALACE--
--AND THEIR DOOM!

LOOK, IT'S SETTLED!
WE'RE ALERTING ALL EARTH HEROES WHO'VE ENCOUNTERED ECLIPSO TO MEET US AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!
I'M TELLING YOU, DOX--YOU'RE WASTING VALUABLE TIME!
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LEAVE FOR THE MOON IMMEDIATELY!
PERSISTENT LITTLE DEVIL, ISN'T HE?
YOUNG AND RECKLESS!
A FEW MONTHS AGO, I FOUGHT ECLIPSO ON THE MOON!
HE HAS SOME KIND OF PALACE UP THERE!
IT'S THE ONLY PLACE HE'S VULNERABLE!
DON'T YOU EVEN CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE HE'S TAKEN?
I CARE ABOUT WINNING.
YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT'S VALUABLE IN PLANNING OUR ASSAULT. I WANT YOU TO ADDRESS OUR TROOPS ONCE THEY'RE FULLY ASSEMBLED! CLEAR?!
BUT--
DOX OUT!

MEANWHILE, ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON...
ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO TEST MY ABILITY TO ABSORB THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR INCREDIBLE POWERS!
I'LL START WITH AN EASY ONE...
GLOOP!
POCK
THWPP...PP!!
I AM TWICE MY FORMER MASS AND HAVE SUFFERED NO ILL EFFECTS FROM THE ABSORPTION!
THE INCREASED STRENGTH AND REFLEXES OF THE ONE KNOWN AS DEATHSTROKE THE TERMINATOR ARE NOW MINE TO COMMAND!
YES!
SCHWUUGH!


WHO'S NEXT?
"THE DULLARD'S ENVY OF BRILLIANT MEN IS ALWAYS ASSUAGED BY THE SUSPICION THAT THEY WILL COME TO A BAD END." --MAX BEERBOHM
I'M SORRY ABOUT STARMAN, DOX!
IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR PEOPLE, HAWKMAN--
--I'LL DO IT FOR YOU!

YOU DON'T MINCE WORDS, DO YOU?
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU CHOSE THIS IDIOTIC CITY FOR OUR RENDEZVOUS POINT!
LOOK, I TOLD YOU BEFORE--
-- LAS VEGAS WAS THE CLOSEST LOCATION WITH AN ADEQUATE FACILITY!
GET ONE THING STRAIGHT: WE'RE NOT PLANNING A RETREAT...
...WE'RE ORGANIZING AN ATTACK!

ECLIPSO
THE DARKNESS WITHIN
"BRILLIANT MEN"
THE CONCLUSION
KEITH GIFFEN
BREAKDOWN ARTIST
ROBERT LOREN FLEMING
CO-PLOTTERS
SCRIPTER
BART SEARS
PENCILLER
MARK PENNINGTON
RANDY ELLIOTT & RAYMOND KRYSSING
INKERS
GASPAR
LETTERER
TOM McCRAW
COLORIST
EDDIE BERGANZA
ASST. EDITOR
MICHAEL EURY • Editor

YOU'RE IN MY WAY, PHASE!
AND DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK.
NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL PLEASE COME TO ORDER...
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO PULL TOGETHER TO GET THIS THING DONE!
IF ANYONE HAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT, THE DOOR'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
STARMAN?
I JUST WANT TO GET GOING!
EXIT
HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO STAND AROUND TALKING?
UNTIL WE FORMULATE A PLAN, YA CRAZY KID!
YOU GOT A LOT T'LEARN ABOUT THE MEANING-A TEAMWORK!
HAWK... MAN...
>Ahem<
LET'S GIVE CHIEF DOX OUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, SHALL WE?

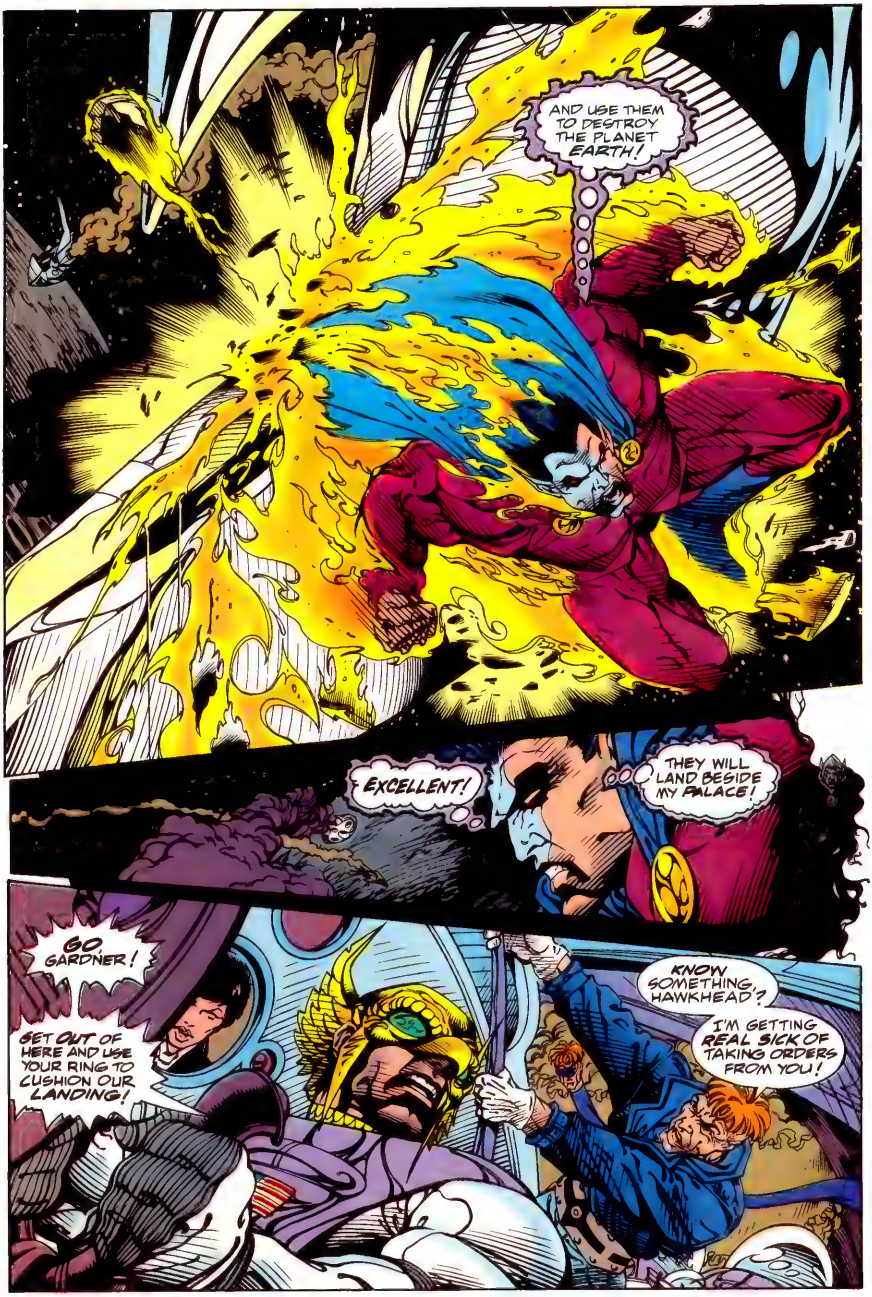
RIGHT... HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.
WE HAVE TWO SHIPS CAPABLE OF MAKING THE TRIP TO THE MOON.
WE'RE ALL GOING.
THERE'LL BE LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE THEM.
WOULDN'T LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES BE MORE APPROPRIATE?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO--
--WHEN WE GET THERE?
ON THE WAY TO THE MOON, HAWKMAN AND I WILL BRIEF YOU MORE COMPLETELY.
FOR NOW, SUFFICE IT TO SAY WE'RE GOING TO HIT ECLIPSO WHERE HE'S WEAKEST.
AND THEN...
...WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!

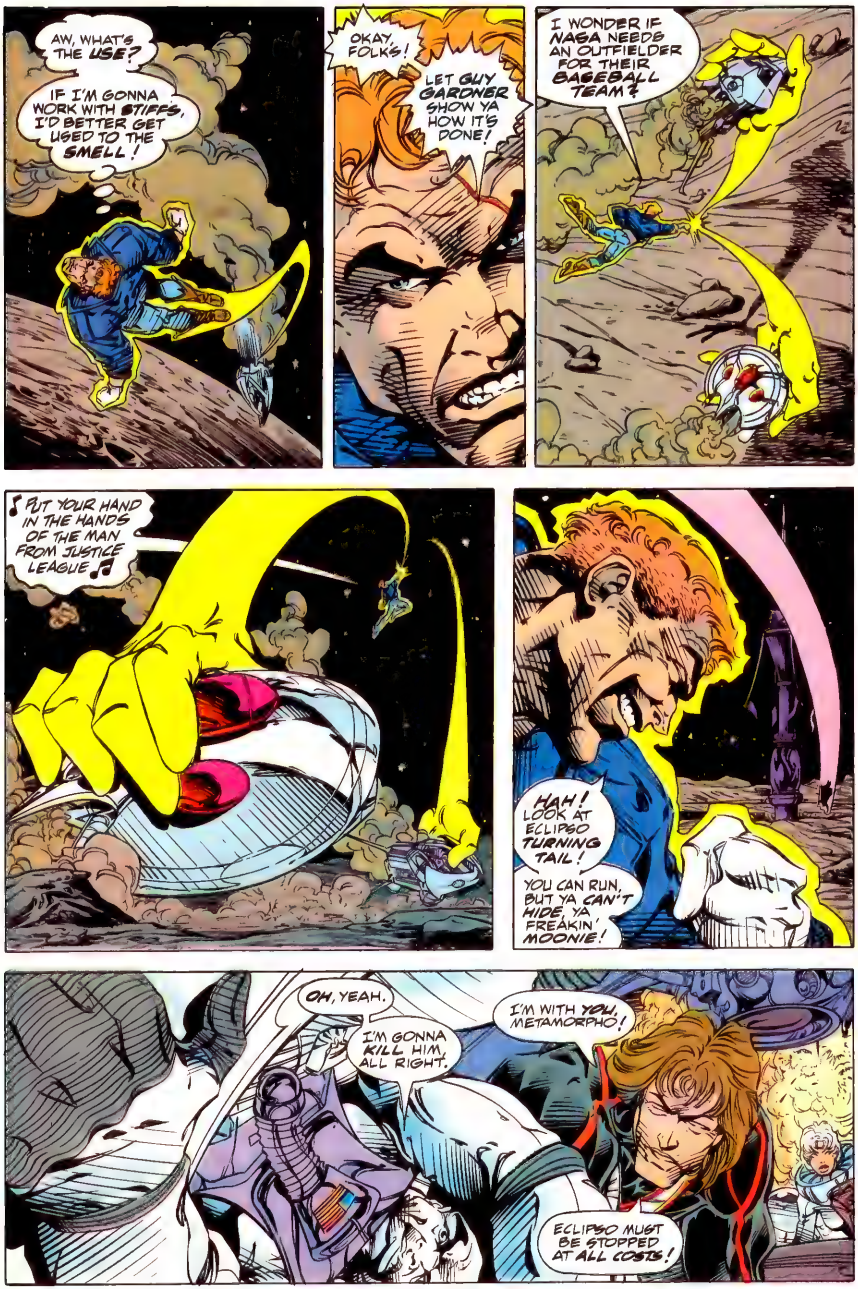
HAWKMAN TO DOX! COME IN, DOX!
PHASE HERE, HAWKMAN! DOX IS ON HIS WAY.
WHAT DOES HE WANT NOW??
DID YOU READ THAT, HAWKMAN?
YES.
THE EARTH CONTINGENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THIS BUSINESS OF KILLING ECLIPSO...
...AND WE WANT NO PART OF IT!
GUESS I'M IN THE WRONG SHIP!
TO KILL IS IMMORAL, MON AMI... EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE!
TELL THAT TO THOSE WHO DIED IN HITLER'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS, FRENCHY!
ECLIPSO'S MADE UP OF EVERYTHING ROTTEN IN ALL OF US!
HE'S GOTTA BE STOPPED... PERMANENTLY!
EACH OF US MUST FOLLOW HIS OWN CONSCIENCE ON THIS MATTER, METAMORPHO...
"...WHEREVER THAT MAY LEAD!"

THE OTHERS APPROACH!
WE MUST MELD QUICKLY, IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR THEM!
ALL OF US...

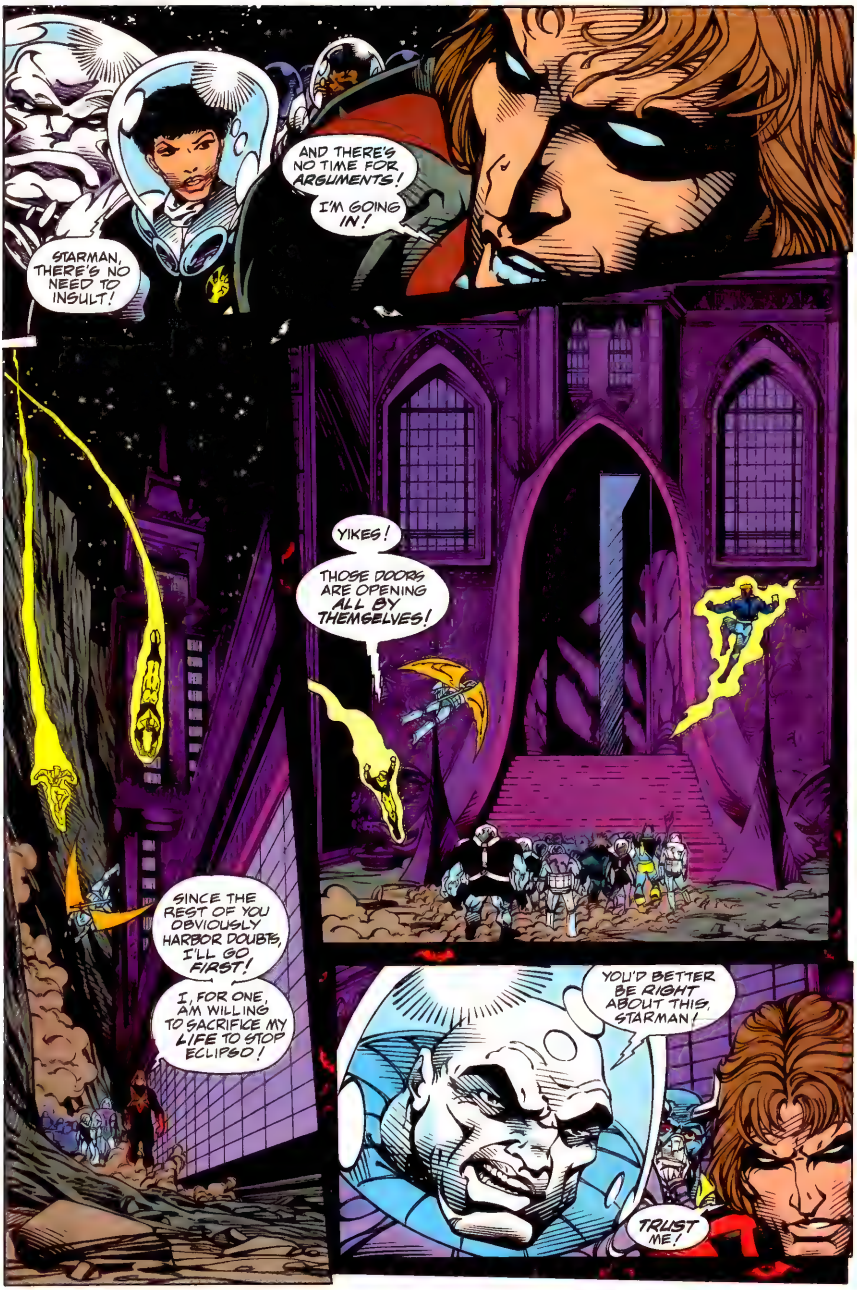
...SAVE ONE!
MY ACE IN THE HOLE!
LAR GAND-- YOU WERE THE FIRST TAKEN...
...AND YOU ARE THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE HEROES!
IN YOUR BODY--
...I WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THE OTHERS BY SURPRISE...
...AND INFLICT MAJOR DAMAGE ON THEIR APPROACHING SHIPS!

TARGETS DEAD AHEAD!
PHASE!
I HAVE A BOGIE BEARING DOWN ON US!
TOO BAD WE COULDN'T PRY LOBO OUT OF THAT CASINO...
...WE COULD SURE USE HIM RIGHT NOW!
BATTLE STATIONS!!
MUST TAKE CARE TO DESTROY ONLY THE PROPULSION UNITS...
...LEAVING ALL LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS INTACT!
I WANT THEM ALIVE, SO I CAN ACQUIRE THEIR POWERS!


AND USE THEM TO DESTROY THE PLANET EARTH!
EXCELLENT!
THEY WILL LAND BESIDE MY PALACE!
GO, GARDNER!
GET OUT OF HERE AND USE YOUR RING TO CUSHION OUR LANDING!
KNOW SOMETHING, HAWKHEAD?
I'M GETTING REAL SICK OF TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU!


AW, WHAT'S THE USE?
IF I'M GONNA WORK WITH STIFFS, I'D BETTER GET USED TO THE SMELL!
OKAY, FOLKS!
LET GUY GARDNER SHOW YA HOW IT'S DONE!
I WONDER IF NASA NEEDS AN OUTFIELDER FOR THEIR BASEBALL TEAM?
♪PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HANDS OF THE MAN FROM JUSTICE LEAGUE♪
HAH! LOOK AT ECLIPSO TURNING TAIL!
YOU CAN RUN, BUT YA CAN'T HIDE, YA FREAKIN' MOONIE!
OH, YEAH.
I'M GONNA KILL HIM, ALL RIGHT.
I'M WITH YOU, METAMORPHO!
ECLIPSO MUST BE STOPPED AT ALL COSTS!

ANYBODY INJURED?
IF NOT, LET'S GET IT IN GEAR.
SO FAR WE'VE BEEN LUCKY! FROM HERE ON IN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN LUCK!
STARMAN'S BEEN HERE BEFORE, SO HE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND.
LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!
THANKS, DOX.
ECLIPSO IS AT HIS WEAKEST INSIDE THE PALACE!
A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT THROUGH THE BIG DOORS IS CERTAIN TO OVERWHELM HIM!
THEN... WHY DID HE RETREAT BACK INSIDE JUST WHEN HE HAD US OFF-BALANCE?
THIS FEELS LIKE A SET-UP... SOME KIND OF TRAP!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT ECLIPSO WANTS YOU TO THINK, YOU FOOL!


STARMAN, THERE'S NO NEED TO INSULT!
AND THERE'S NO TIME FOR ARGUMENTS!
I'M GOING IN!
YIKES!
THOSE DOORS ARE OPENING ALL BY THEMSELVES!
SINCE THE REST OF YOU OBVIOUSLY HARBOR DOUBTS, I'LL GO FIRST!
I, FOR ONE, AM WILLING TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE TO STOP ECLIPSO!
YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT ABOUT THIS, STARMAN!
TRUST ME!

ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
ECLIPSO!
IS THAT AN ECHO?
OR...ARE THOSE GARGOYLES ON THE WALLS AND CEILING ACTUALLY TALKING?!
I AM THE PALACE, YOU SIMPLETON!
STARMAN! YOU--
--WERE REALLY ECLIPSO--
--ALL ALONG!
YES!
AND NOW, THANKS TO YOUR IRRITATION AT HAVING BEEN DECEIVED, I HAVE ALL OF YOU!
FOR HERE IN MY SANCTUM, I AM ABLE TO AMPLIFY THE SLIGHTEST GRIEVANCE INTO UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE!

I AM ALMOST READY TO INCORPORATE THE REST OF YOU INTO MY FLESH!
BLOOP
SCHWUUUP
POCK!
WHEN THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, I WILL POSSESS ALL OF YOUR POWERS...
... AND YOU WILL BE GONE FOREVER!
AT LONG LAST, I WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PRISON AND VENTURE TO EARTH...
... WHICH I WILL DESTROY WITH THE VERY POWERS THAT HAVE SERVED TO PROTECT IT!

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT GIVES ME PAUSE!
BRUCE GORDON!
HE HAS ELUDED MY GRASP!
HOWEVER, I STILL HOLD HIS WOMAN...
MONA!
...AND WILL HAVE TO SATISFY MYSELF BY TAKING OUT MY REVENGE UPON HER!

FIRST, I WILL RELEASE HER FROM MY CONTROL...
...ALLOW HER TO GET HER BEARINGS...
B-BRUCE?
WHAT?
W-WHERE AM I?
OHH!
YOUR BELOVED HAS ABANDONED YOU, MY DEAR!
SLURRP
...HE HAS GIVEN YOU TO ME!
OR RATHER...
AND IN DOING SO...
...TO US!!
AIIEEE!
FA-SHHH!
BRUCE!!
SUNLIGHT!

LOOK WHO I FOUND PLOTTING AGAINST YOU IN AN ABANDONED PLANETARIUM, ECLIPSO!
WE'VE... BEEN BUILDING... WEAPONS...
SOLAR WEAPONS!
I'M NOT YOUR "PATSY" ANYMORE, ECLIPSO!
BRUCE KNEW THAT THE KEY TO YOUR DEFEAT LAY IN YOUR VULNERABILITY TO SUNLIGHT!
SO HE CAREFULLY CHOSE THOSE OF US WITH SOLAR POWERS OR WITH EXPERTISE IN SOLAR TECHNOLOGY TO HELP HIM!
AND TOGETHER, WE'VE COME UP WITH THE MEANS TO WIPE YOU OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BUT... HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO KEEP THIS SECRET FROM ME??
I WAS THERE AMONG YOU AS STARMAN!
YOUR BEHAVIOR GAVE YOU AWAY, ECLIPSO!
FF-AASSH
AND SINCE STARMAN IS A SHAPESHIFTER, I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST!
SO WHENEVER I APPROACHED A POTENTIAL MEMBER OF MY "SECRET TEAM," I FIRST BLASTED THEM WITH PURE SUN-LIGHT TO MAKE SURE THEY WEREN'T YOU IN DISGUISE!

CHUNK!
CLEAR A PATH TO MONA!
NO... PROB.. PROFESSOR BENNET!
AIIEEE!
AUUGH!
SORRY, BUT THE SURGEON GENERAL DID WARN YOU TO WEAR YOUR SUN-BLOCK!
YOU'LL BE OKAY NOW, MA'AM.
WHILE THE OTHERS MOP UP THE SMALLER ECLIPSOS--
--I'LL TACKLE THE LARGER PROBLEM HEAD-ON!
SUPERMAN!
WHA--!
LAR GAND?
SQUORRP
WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE?!

OOOF!
DURING THE TIME I CONTROLLED YOUR BODY, I WAS ABLE TO STUDY YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES!
SO MANY WEAKNESSES!
HE'S... KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF ME!
KNONG... I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE OUT HERE WHERE THERE'S NO AIR!
WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO FINISH THIS FAST, BEFORE I NEED A BREATH!

C'MON, ECLIPSO...

...DO YOUR WORST!

DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK, SUPERMAN...

...GIVE ME YOUR BEST!

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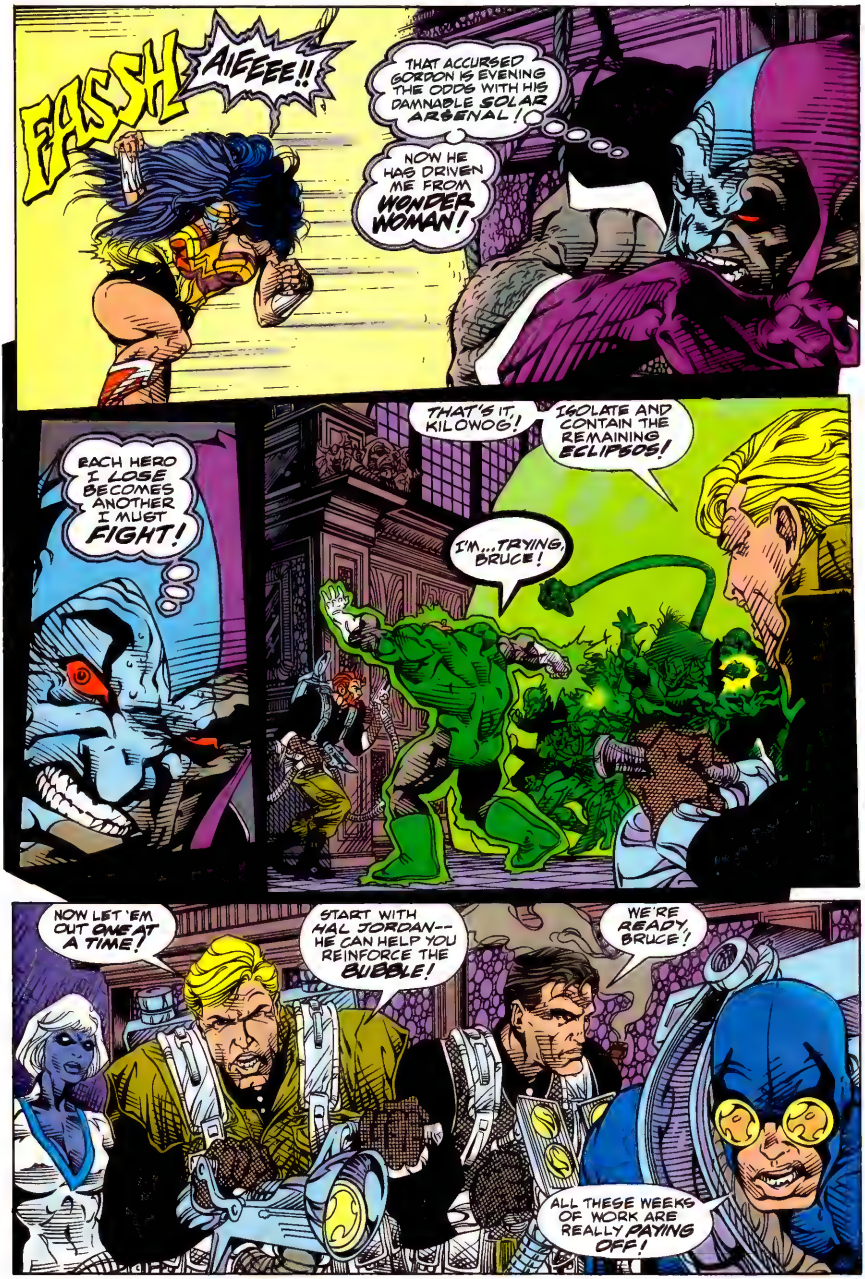
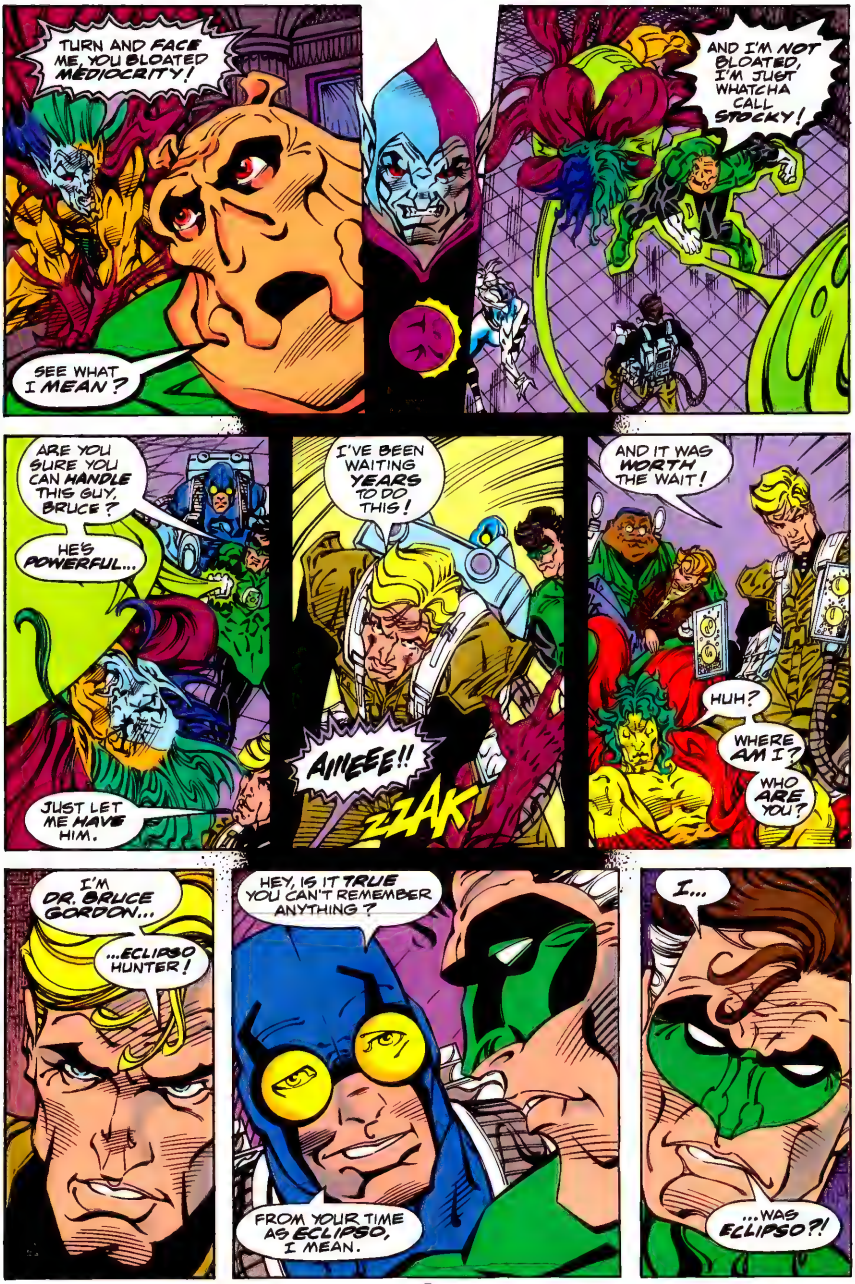
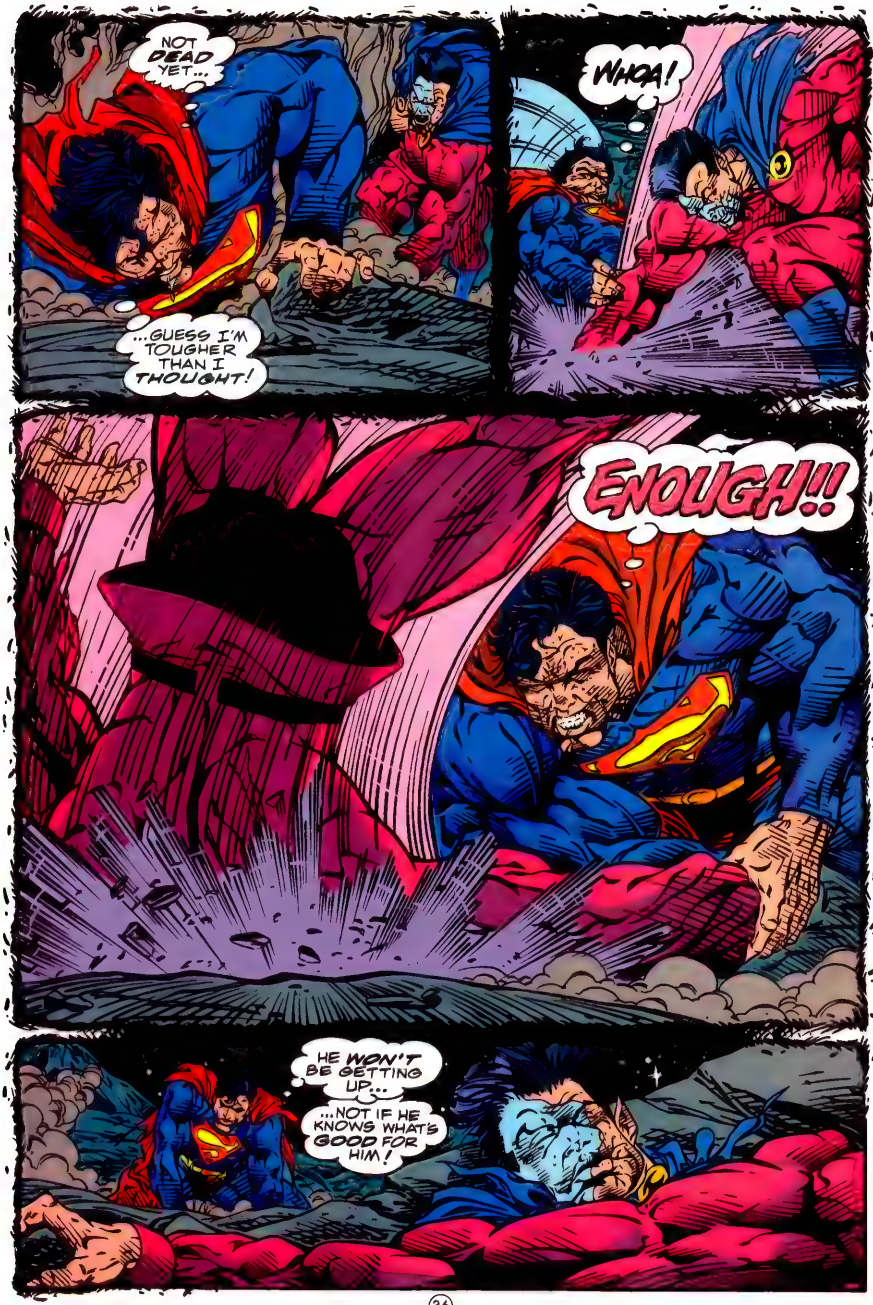
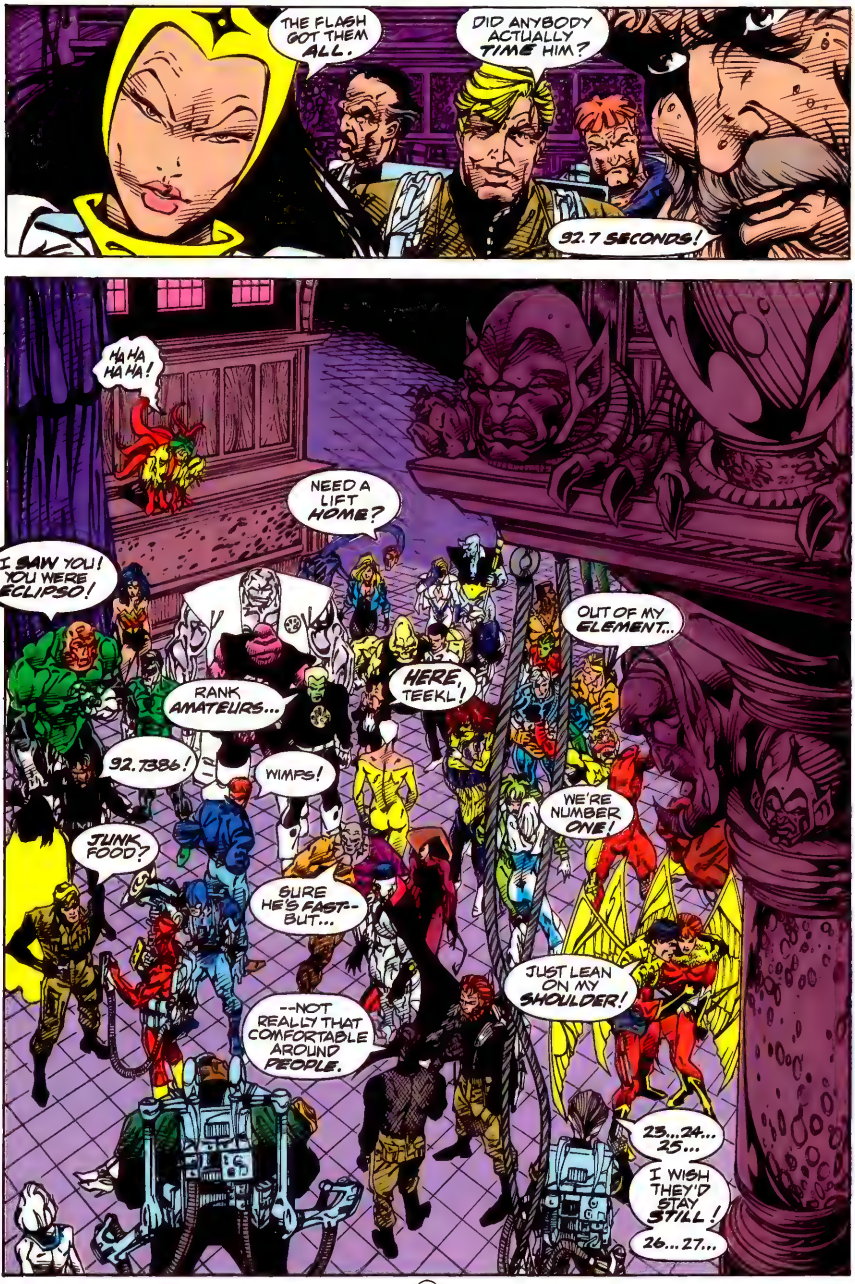

FASH
AIEEEEE!!
THAT ACCURSED GORDON IS EVENING THE ODDS WITH HIS DAMNABLE SOLAR ARSENAL!
NOW HE HAS DRIVEN ME FROM WONDER WOMAN!
EACH HERO I LOSE BECOMES ANOTHER I MUST FIGHT!
THAT'S IT, KILOWOG!
ISOLATE AND CONTAIN THE REMAINING ECLIPSOS!
I'M...TRYING, BRUCE!
NOW LET 'EM OUT ONE AT A TIME!
START WITH HAL JORDAN--HE CAN HELP YOU REINFORCE THE BUBBLE!
WE'RE READY, BRUCE!
ALL THESE WEEKS OF WORK ARE REALLY PAYING OFF!

GET READY, FOLKS! I'VE GOT HAL...
...AND HE'S ALL YOURS!
I'LL KEEP HIM COVERED WITH SUNLIGHT!
NOT TOO MUCH, PROFESSOR!
WE DON'T WANT HIM TEMPORARILY BLINDED...
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!
...WHICH MAKES MY SOLAR FIBRILLATOR...
NOOOO!
...THE SAFEST METHOD FOR DE-ECLIPSING FRIENDS AND ALLIES!
NICE WORK, DOC MAGNUS!
YOU OKAY, HAL?
DID I... HAVE A HEART ATTACK?
I'M GONNA HAVE A HEART ATTACK IF I DON'T GET SOME HELP OVER HERE SOON!


TURN AND FACE ME, YOU BLOATED MEDIOCRITY!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
AND I'M NOT BLOATED, I'M JUST WHATCHA CALL STOCKY!
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THIS GUY, BRUCE?
HE'S POWERFUL...
JUST LET ME HAVE HIM.
I'VE BEEN WAITING YEARS TO DO THIS!
AIIEEE!!
ZAK
AND IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT!
HUH?
WHERE AM I?
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M DR. BRUCE GORDON...
...ECLIPSO HUNTER!
HEY, IS IT TRUE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
FROM YOUR TIME AS ECLIPSO, I MEAN.
I...
...WAS ECLIPSO?!

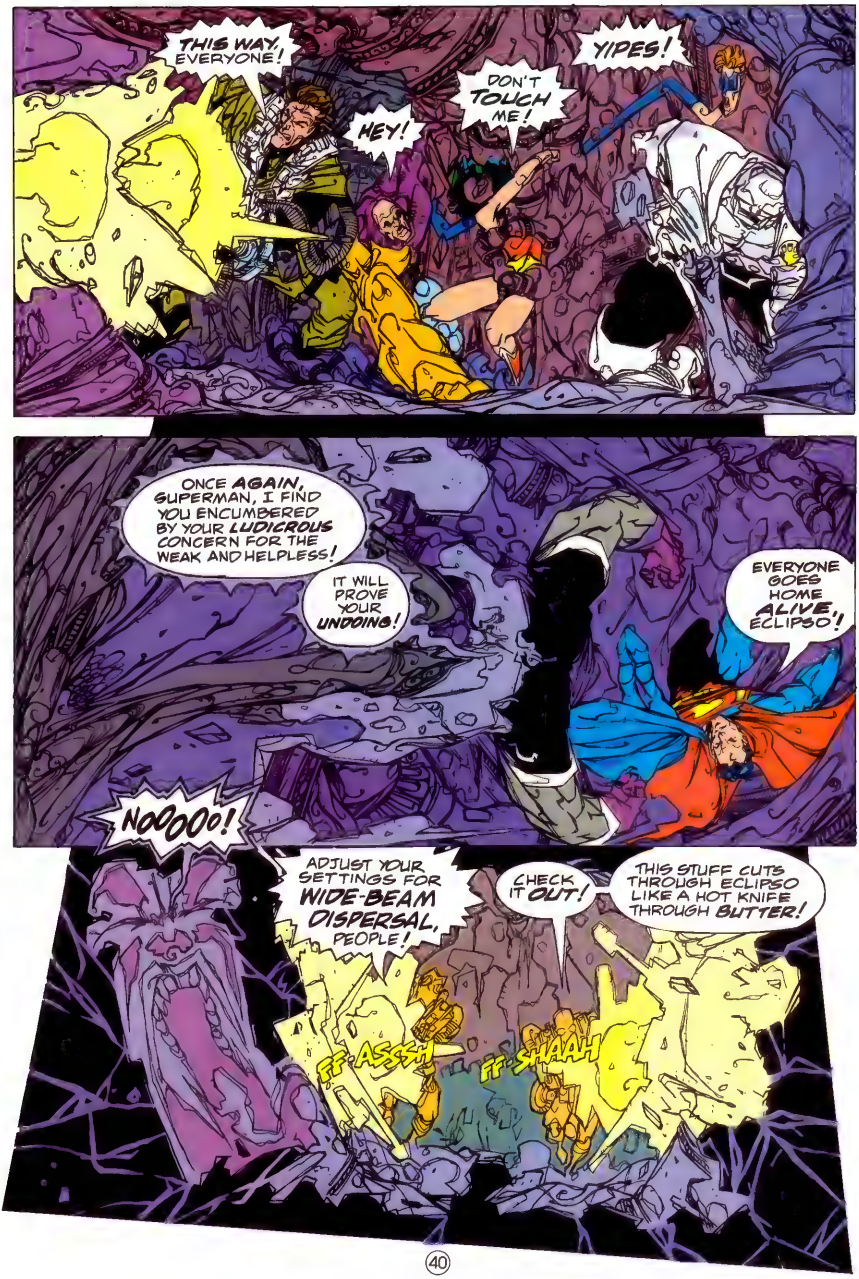
SUFFOCATING...
ONLY SECONDS AWAY FROM BLACKING OUT...
BEFORE I DO THIS...
...ARE WE SURE WE WANT TO RESTORE GUY GARDNER'S PERSONALITY?
...AND HE KNOWS IT!
GOTTA END THIS...
...NOW!
NOT SO FAST!
YOU'RE NEXT!
JUST DROP THE BARRIER--I'LL DO EVERYBODY ELSE!
CLOCK ME!

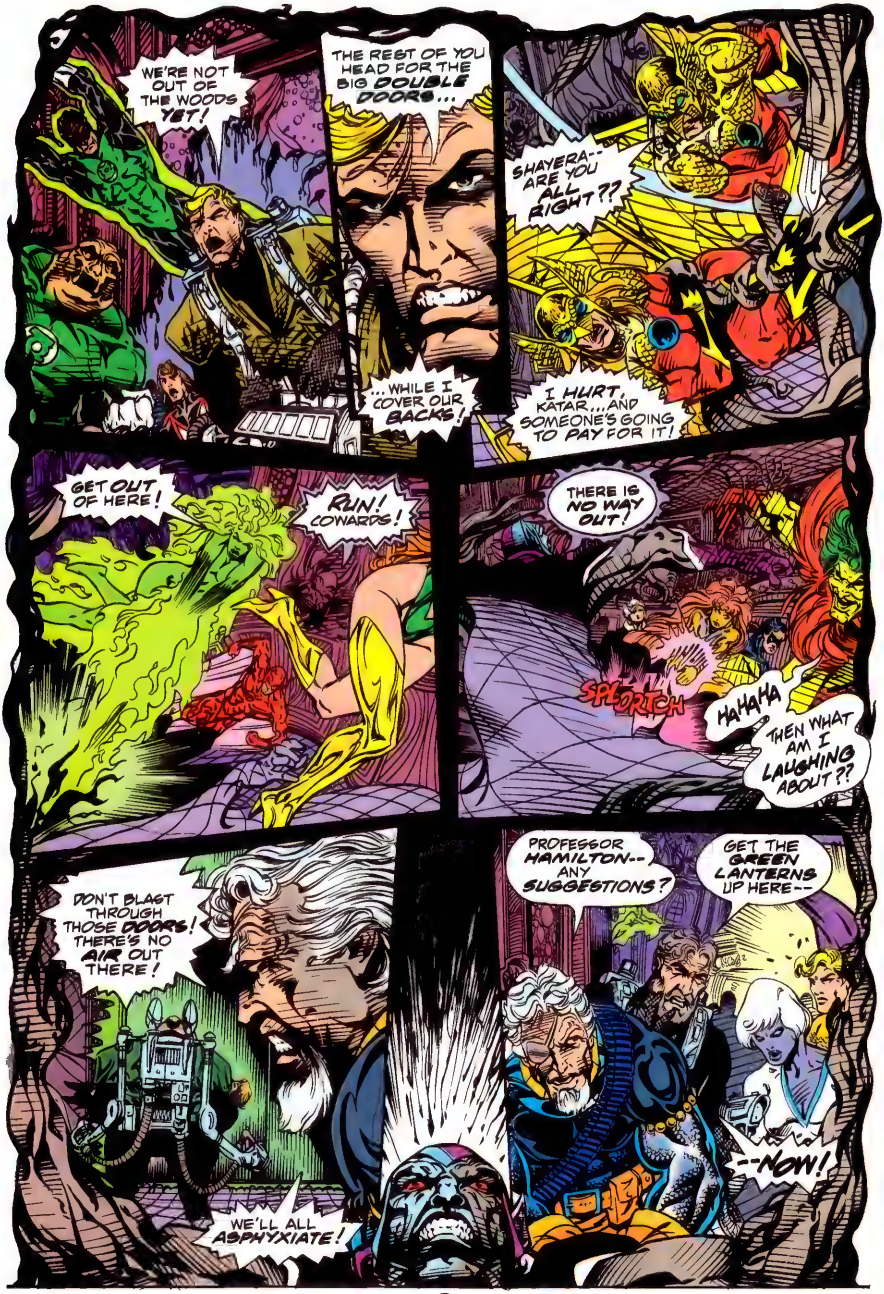

NOT DEAD YET...
...GUESS I'M TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT!
WHOA!
ENOUGH!!
HE WON'T BE GETTING UP...
...NOT IF HE KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM!

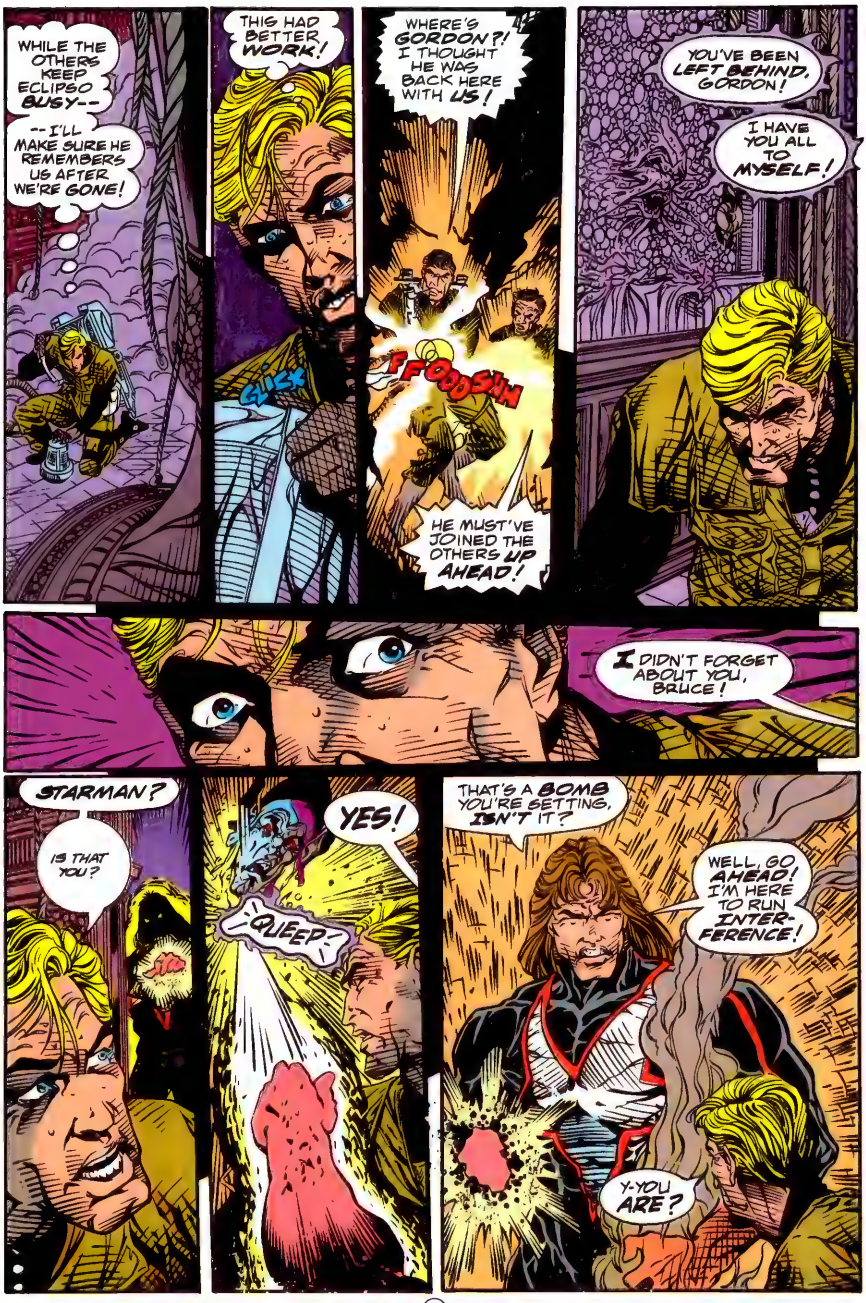

THE FLASH GOT THEM ALL.
DID ANYBODY ACTUALLY TIME HIM?
92.7 SECONDS!
HA HA HA HA!
NEED A LIFT HOME?
I SAW YOU! YOU WERE ECLIPSO!
OUT OF MY ELEMENT...
HERE, TEEKL!
RANK AMATEURS...
92.7386!
WIMPS!
WE'RE NUMBER ONE!
JUNK FOOD?
SURE HE'S FAST-- BUT...
JUST LEAN ON MY SHOULDER!
--NOT REALLY THAT COMFORTABLE AROUND PEOPLE.
23...24... 25...
I WISH THEY'D STAY STILL!
26...27...

SUPERMAN?
WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS BOY IS HURT.
HE REQUIRES IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION!
IN THAT CAGE, I MIGHT AS WELL RELEASE HIM FROM MY CONTROL!
ONE DOWN, 60 TO SPEAK!
BIG TALK!
YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED, NOW, ECLIPSO!
YOU HAVE SUPERIOR NUMBERS, IT IS TRUE!
BUT HERE IN MY PALACE, I HAVE ALL OF YOU...
...SURROUNDED!
OH GOD, HE'S RIGHT!
EVERYBODY OUT!
NOW!

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
IT'S AS IF THE FLOOR--
--WERE ALIVE!!
GOOD GUESS!
BUT IT IS NOT JUST THE FLOOR!
OH, NO!
IT'S THE WHOLE PLACE!
ICE!
KEEP YER MITTS TO YERSELF, YA PERVERT!
SOLAR TEAM!
USE YOUR POWERS AND WEAPONS TO CLEAR A PATH FOR THE OTHERS!


THIS WAY, EVERYONE!
HEY!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
YIPES!
ONCE AGAIN, SUPERMAN, I FIND YOU ENCUMBERED BY YOUR LUDICROUS CONCERN FOR THE WEAK AND HELPLESS!
IT WILL PROVE YOUR UNDOING!
EVERYONE GOES HOME ALIVE, ECLIPSO!
NOOOOO!
ADJUST YOUR SETTINGS FOR WIDE-BEAM DISPERSAL, PEOPLE!
CHECK IT OUT!
THIS STUFF CUTS THROUGH ECLIPSO LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER!
FF-ASSSH
FF-SHAAAH

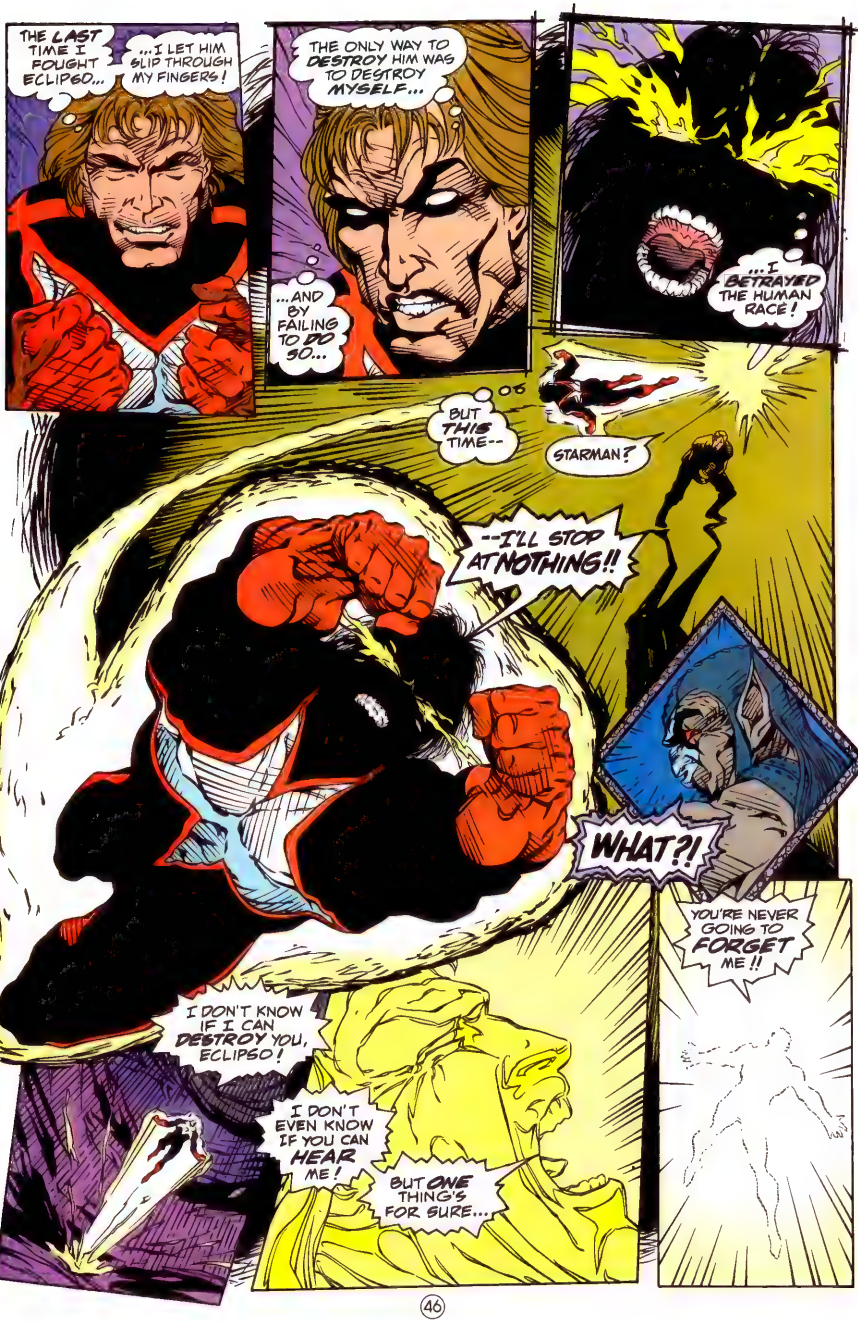

WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET!
THE REST OF YOU HEAD FOR THE BIG DOUBLE DOORS...
...WHILE I COVER OUR BACKS!
SHAYERA--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT??
I HURT, KATAR...AND SOMEONE'S GOING TO PAY FOR IT!
GET OUT OF HERE!
RUN! COWARDS!
THERE IS NO WAY OUT!
SPLORCH
HAHAHA
THEN WHAT AM I LAUGHING ABOUT??
DON'T BLAST THROUGH THOSE DOORS! THERE'S NO AIR OUT THERE!
WE'LL ALL ASPHYXIATE!
PROFESSOR HAMILTON--ANY SUGGESTIONS?
GET THE GREEN LANTERNS UP HERE--
--NOW!

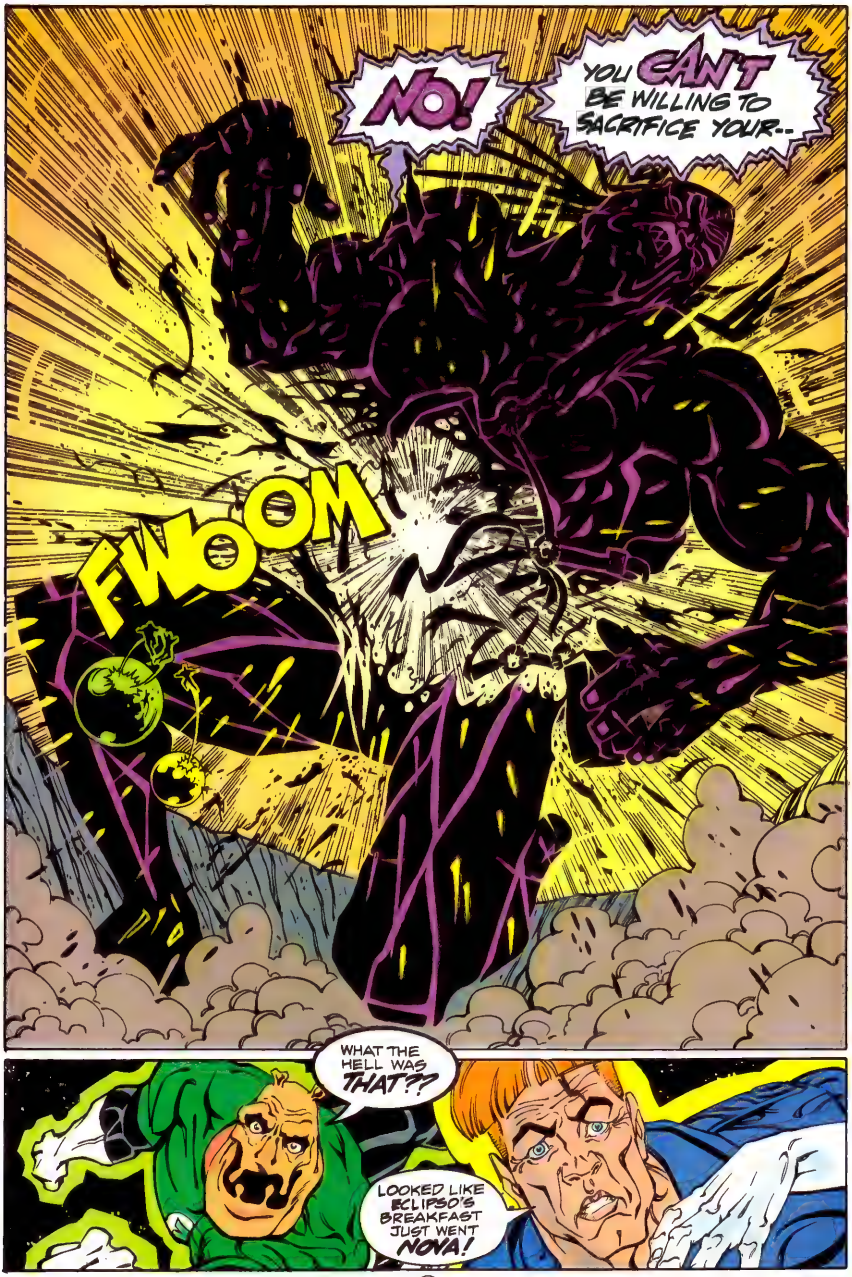

WHILE THE OTHERS KEEP ECLIPSO BUSY--
--I'LL MAKE SURE HE REMEMBERS US AFTER WE'RE GONE!
THIS HAD BETTER WORK!
GULK
WHERE'S GORDON?! I THOUGHT HE WAS BACK HERE WITH US!
FFOOOSH
HE MUST'VE JOINED THE OTHERS UP AHEAD!
YOU'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND, GORDON!
I HAVE YOU ALL TO MYSELF!
I DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT YOU, BRUCE!
STARMAN?
IS THAT YOU?
YES!
QUEED!
THAT'S A BOMB YOU'RE SETTING, ISN'T IT?
WELL, GO AHEAD! I'M HERE TO RUN INTERFERENCE!
Y-YOU ARE?

KLOOSH
KEEP THOSE BUBBLES AIR-TIGHT, MEN!
OH, MY GOD.
LOOK AT THAT!
HOW DO WE FIGHT SOMEONE WHO CAN DO THAT, O'GREAT LEADER?
DO WHAT?
WE'VE GOT A PRECIOUS CARGO HERE!
GASP!
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT:

NOBODY GOES HOME ALIVE!!
OH MY GOD!
IS IT JUST ME...
...OR DOES HE LOOK DIFFERENT?
THAT RIDICULOUS COSTUME WAS PART OF MY MASQUERADE! IT SERVED TO LULL YOU INTO BELIEVING YOU FACED A MERE "SUPER-VILLAIN!"
YOU SEE ME NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME AS I REALLY AM!

GRACE!
THERE IT IS!
I NEED ANOTHER FEW SECONDS TO ARM THE DEVICE!
GOT IT!
NO PROBLEM!
I KNOW HOW TO BUY US SOME TIME!
I DROPPED THE BOMB!
YOUR TIME IS UP, HEROES!
PREPARE TO DIE!!

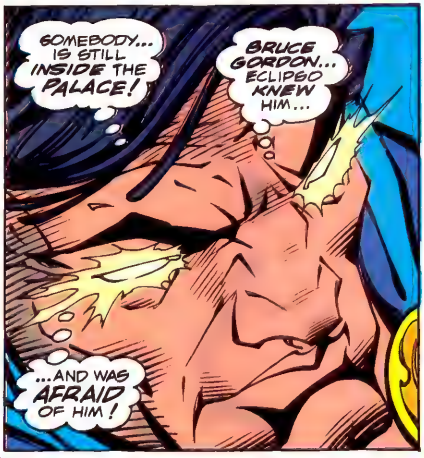

THE LAST TIME I FOUGHT ECLIPSO...
...I LET HIM SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS!
THE ONLY WAY TO DESTROY HIM WAS TO DESTROY MYSELF...
...AND BY FAILING TO DO SO...
...I BETRAYED THE HUMAN RACE!
BUT THIS TIME--
STARMAN?
--I'LL STOP AT NOTHING!!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO FORGET ME!!
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DESTROY YOU, ECLIPSO!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME!
BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE...

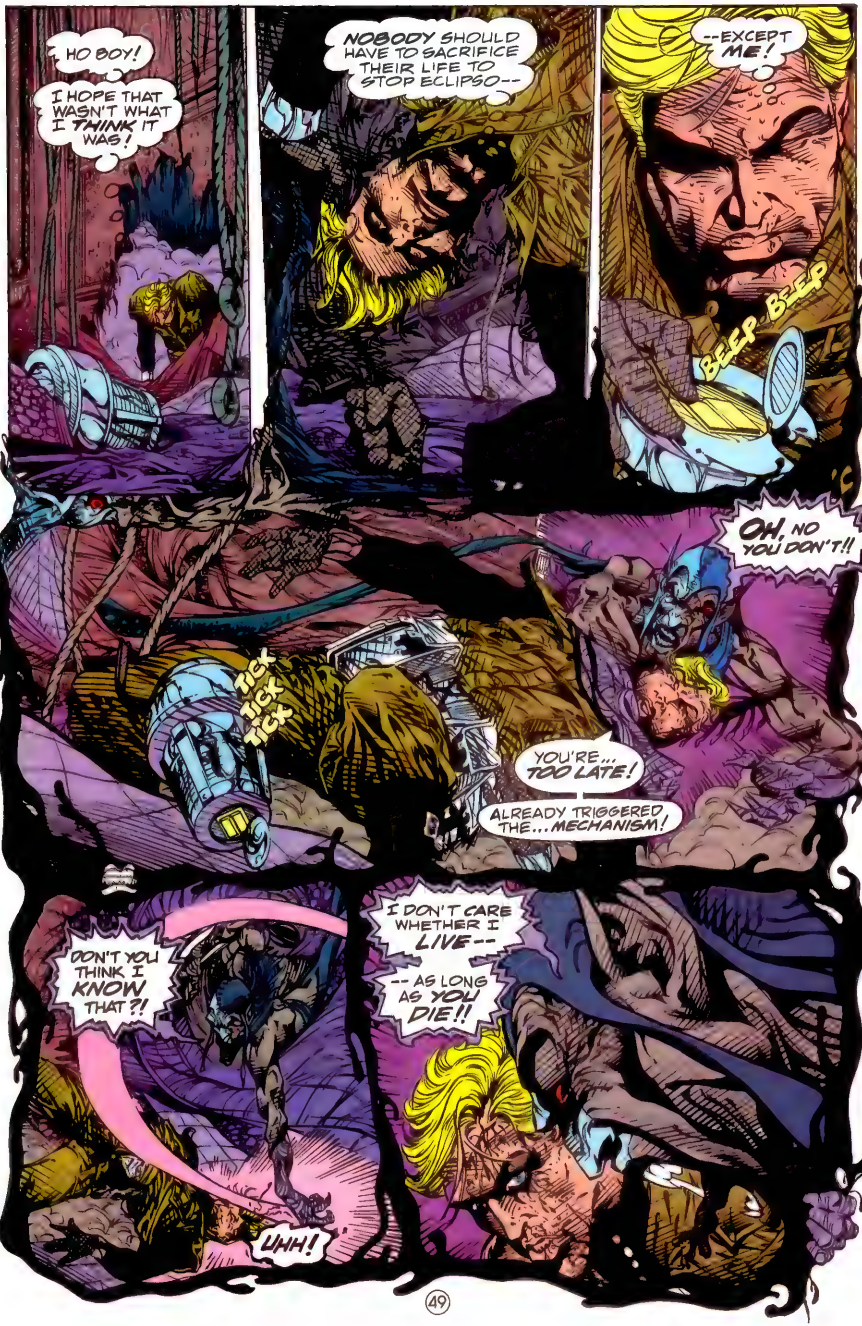

NO!
YOU CAN'T BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR--
FWOOM
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT??
LOOKED LIKE ECLIPSO'S BREAKFAST JUST WENT NOVA!

NOOOOOOO

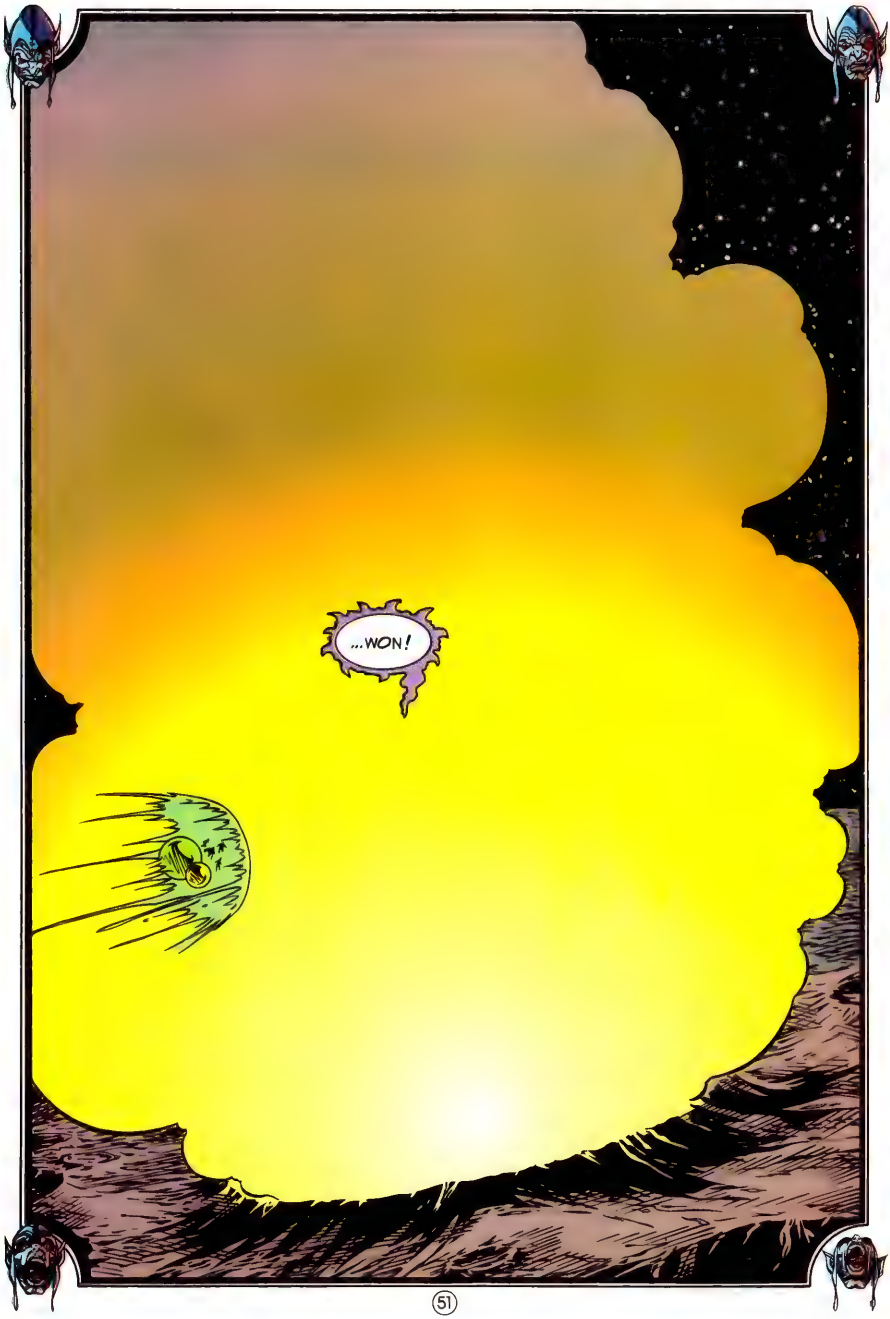
GEEZ, DIDJA HEAR THAT?
HOW... COULD WE... IN AIRLESS SPACE?
BLACK MAGIC!
FANTASTIC!

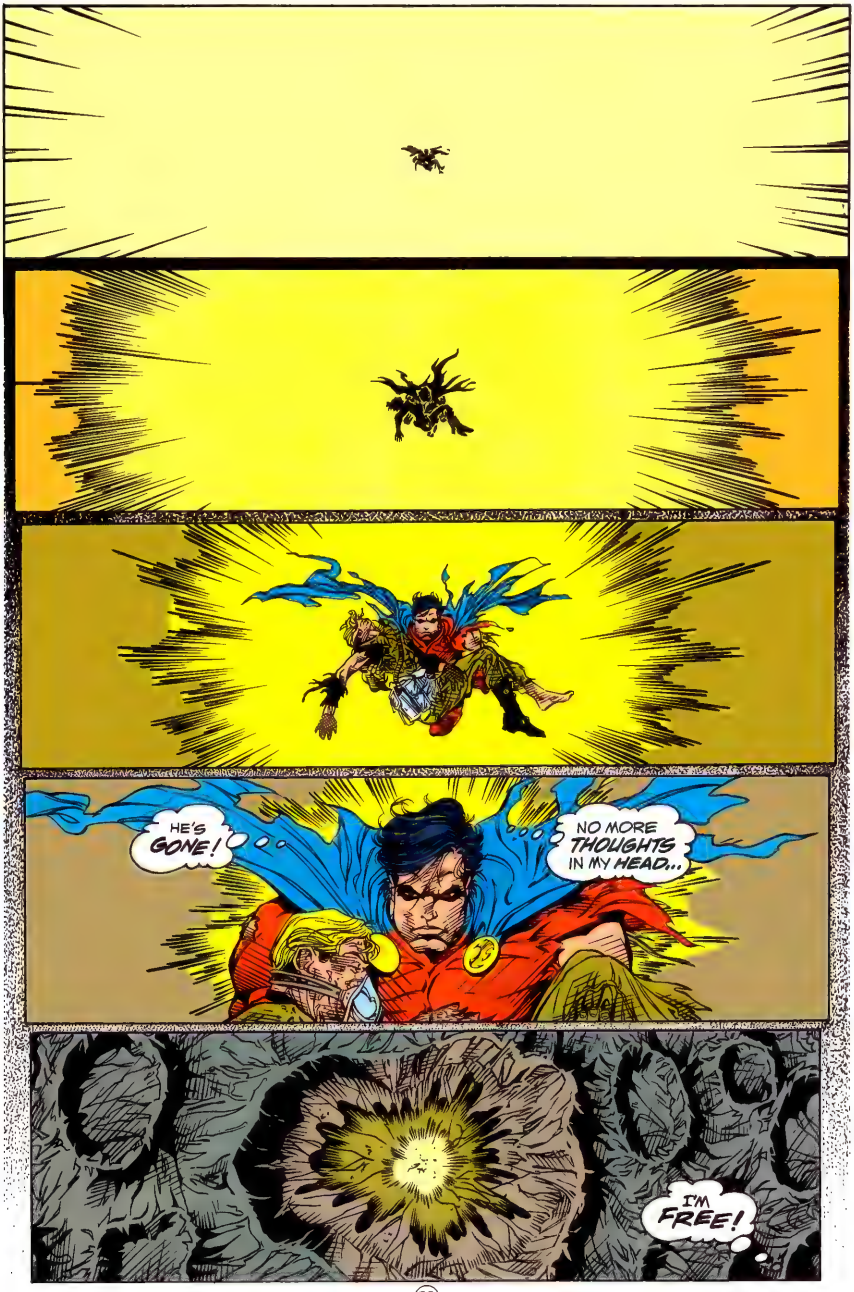
GOOD LORD... STARMAN!
HE STOPPED ECLIPSO... AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE!
BUT WHAT WAS HE DOING IN THERE??

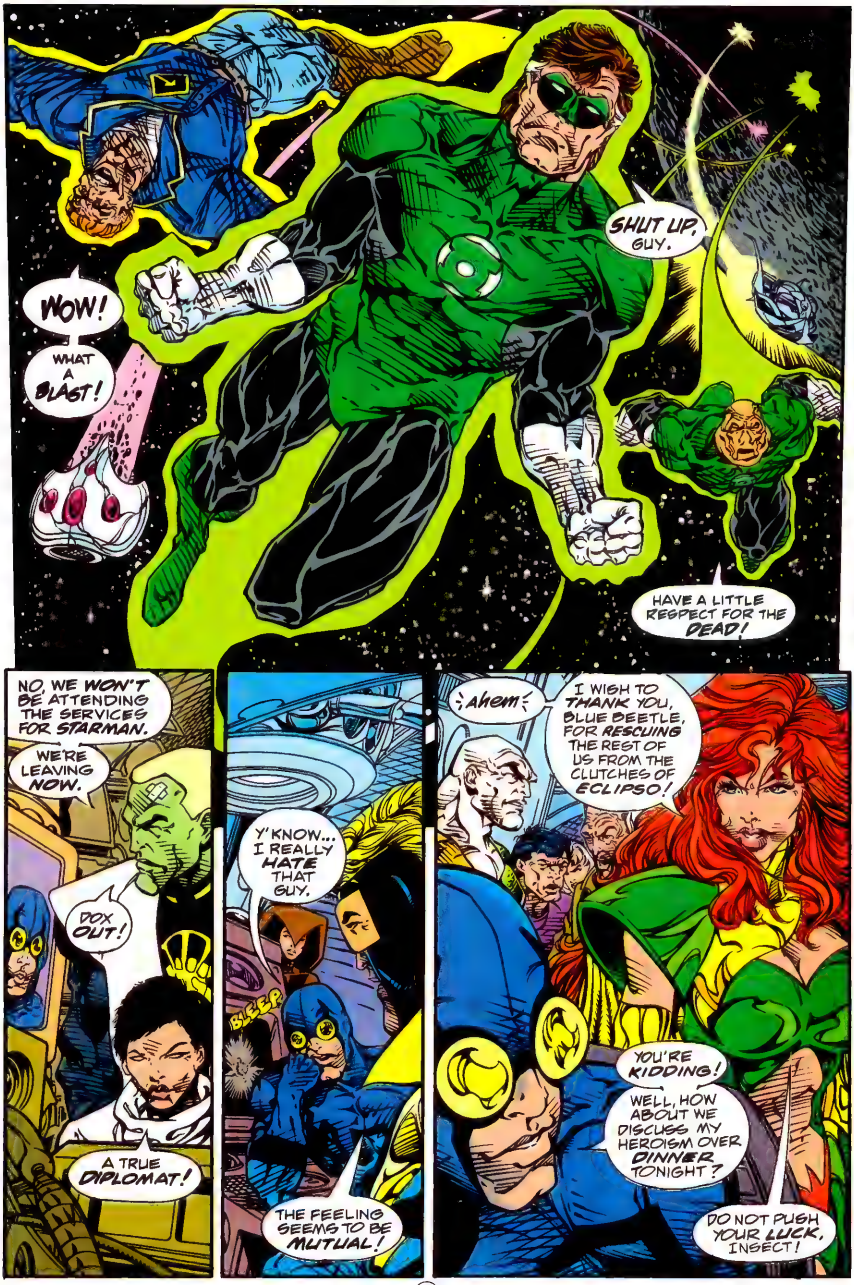

SOMEBODY... IS STILL INSIDE THE PALACE!
BRUCE GORDON... ECLIPSO KNEW HIM...
...AND WAS AFRAID OF HIM!


HO BOY!
I HOPE THAT WASN'T WHAT I THINK IT WAS!
NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIFE TO STOP ECLIPSO--
--EXCEPT ME!
BEEP BEEP
OH, NO YOU DON'T!!
TICK TICK TICK
YOU'RE... TOO LATE!
ALREADY TRIGGERED THE...MECHANISM!
I DON'T CARE WHETHER I LIVE--
-- AS LONG AS YOU DIE!!
DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW THAT?!
UHH!

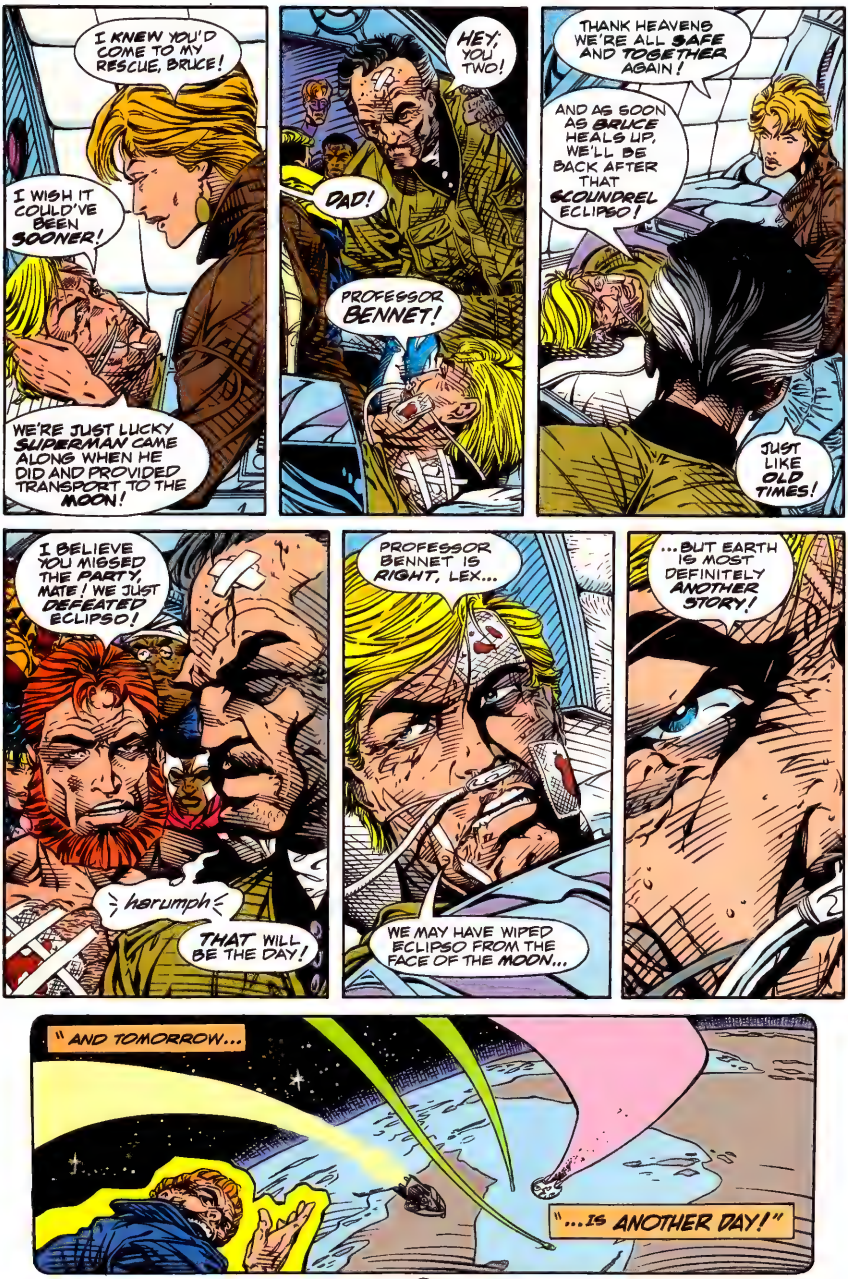
HUH?
ECLIPSO IS STILL INSIDE MY HEAD!
HE HAD ME SO LONG... I CAN HEAR HIS THOUGHTS...
...FEEL HIS EMOTIONS!
NEVER!
OHH!
NEVER!
NGH!
NEVER BE BEATEN BY A NOTHING LIKE YOU!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...
...I'LL EVER BE FREE OF HIM...
DO YOU HEAR ME??
ECLIPSO!
TICK TICK TICK
YOU ARE TOO LATE, LAR GAND! I HAVE ALREADY--

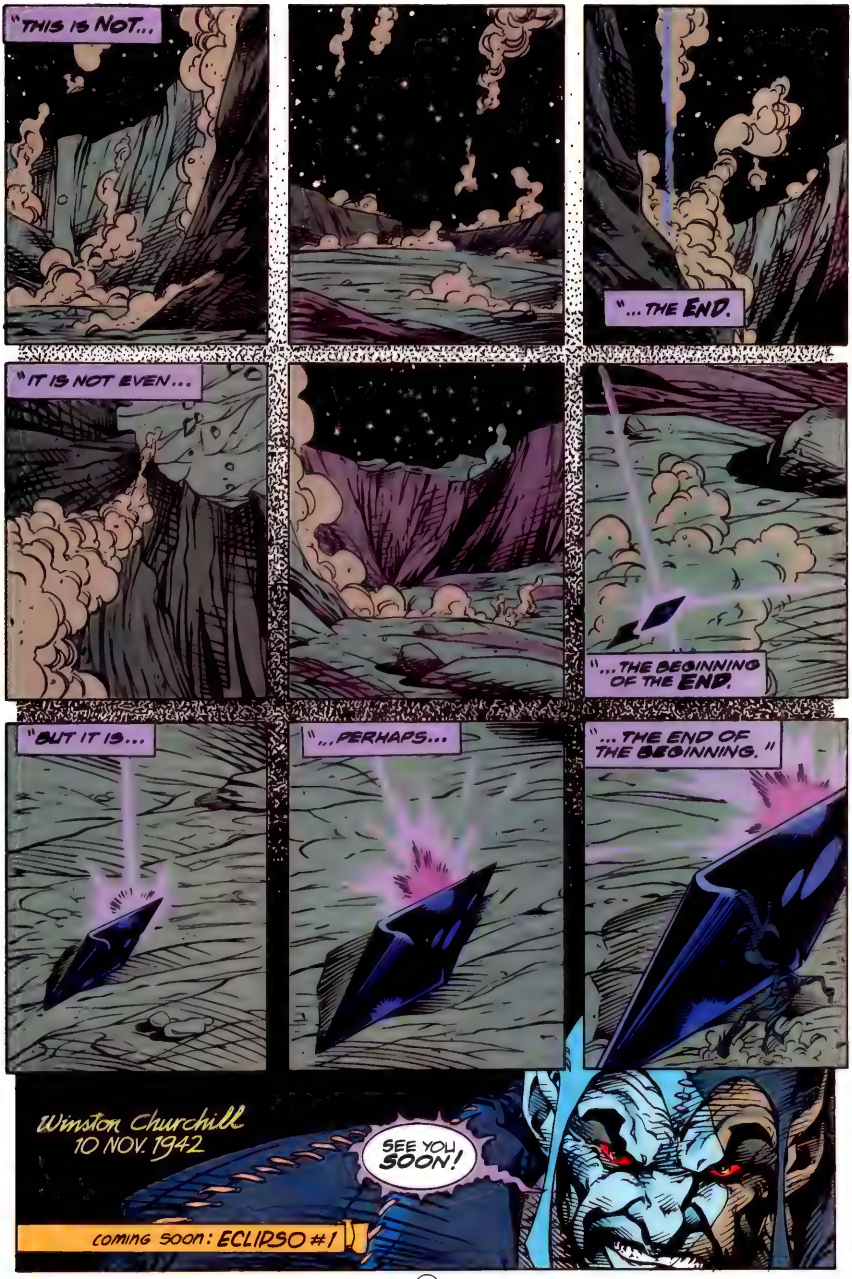

...WON!


HE'S GONE!
NO MORE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD...
I'M FREE!


WOW!
WHAT A BLAST!
SHUT UP, GUY.
HAVE A LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE DEAD!
NO. WE WON'T BE ATTENDING THE SERVICES FOR STARMAN.
WE'RE LEAVING NOW.
DOX OUT!
A TRUE DIPLOMAT!
Y'KNOW... I REALLY HATE THAT GUY.
SLEEP
THE FEELING SEEMS TO BE MUTUAL!
;AHEM;
I WISH TO THANK YOU, BLUE BEETLE, FOR RESCUING THE REST OF US FROM THE CLUTCHES OF ECLIPSO!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
WELL, HOW ABOUT WE DISCUSS MY HEROISM OVER DINNER TONIGHT?
DO NOT PUSH YOUR LUCK, INSECT!

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO SPOT GORDON IN THE PALACE WHEN I MISSED HIM COMPLETELY!
LAR.
JUST LUCKY, I GUESS.
DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT! THAT WAS A REAL ACT OF VALOR!
YOU WERE BADLY INJURED DURING THE TIME ECLIPSO CONTROLLED YOU!
I KNOW...
...I REMEMBER!
KIND OF ROUGH, WASN'T IT?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT.., BLACK CANARY?
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE "ALL RIGHT" AGAIN!
WE'VE RADIOED AHEAD FOR A MEDICAL TEAM TO TREAT DR. GORDON AND THE OTHERS, SUPERMAN!
THANKS, HAWKMAN! LUTHOR HAS OFFERED TO TREAT LAR GAND IN HIS OWN PRIVATE FACILITY!
THAT'S GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE GORDON WILL BE BENEFITING FROM SOME PRIVATE CARE, TOO!


I KNEW YOU'D COME TO MY RESCUE, BRUCE!
I WISH IT COULD'VE BEEN SOONER!
WE'RE JUST LUCKY SUPERMAN CAME ALONG WHEN HE DID AND PROVIDED TRANSPORT TO THE MOON!
HEY, YOU TWO!
DAD!
PROFESSOR BENNET!
THANK HEAVENS WE'RE ALL SAFE AND TOGETHER AGAIN!
AND AS SOON AS BRUCE HEALS UP, WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THAT SCOUNDREL ECLIPSO!
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!
I BELIEVE YOU MISSED THE PARTY, MATE! WE JUST DEFEATED ECLIPSO!
hrumph
THAT WILL BE THE DAY!
PROFESSOR BENNET IS RIGHT, LEX...
WE MAY HAVE WIPED ECLIPSO FROM THE FACE OF THE MOON...
...BUT EARTH IS MOST DEFINITELY ANOTHER STORY!
"AND TOMORROW...
"...IS ANOTHER DAY!"


"THIS IS NOT...
"...THE END.
"IT IS NOT EVEN...
"...THE BEGINNING OF THE END.
"BUT IT IS...
"...PERHAPS...
"...THE END OF THE BEGINNING."
Winston Churchill
10 NOV. 1942
SEE YOU SOON!
COMING SOON: ECLIPSO #1

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 059 The Darkness Within

"All Men Make Faults", first appeared in Eclipso: The Darkness Within issue #1, released May, 1992
Keith Giffen (writer), Robert Loren Fleming (writer), Bart Sears (penciller), Mark Pennington (inker), Randy Elliott (inker)

"The Gathering Darkness", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel Annual issue #1, released June, 1992
Robert Loren Fleming (writer), Chris Wozniak (penciller), Joe Quesada (penciller), Brad Vancata (inker), Jimmy Palmiotti (inker)

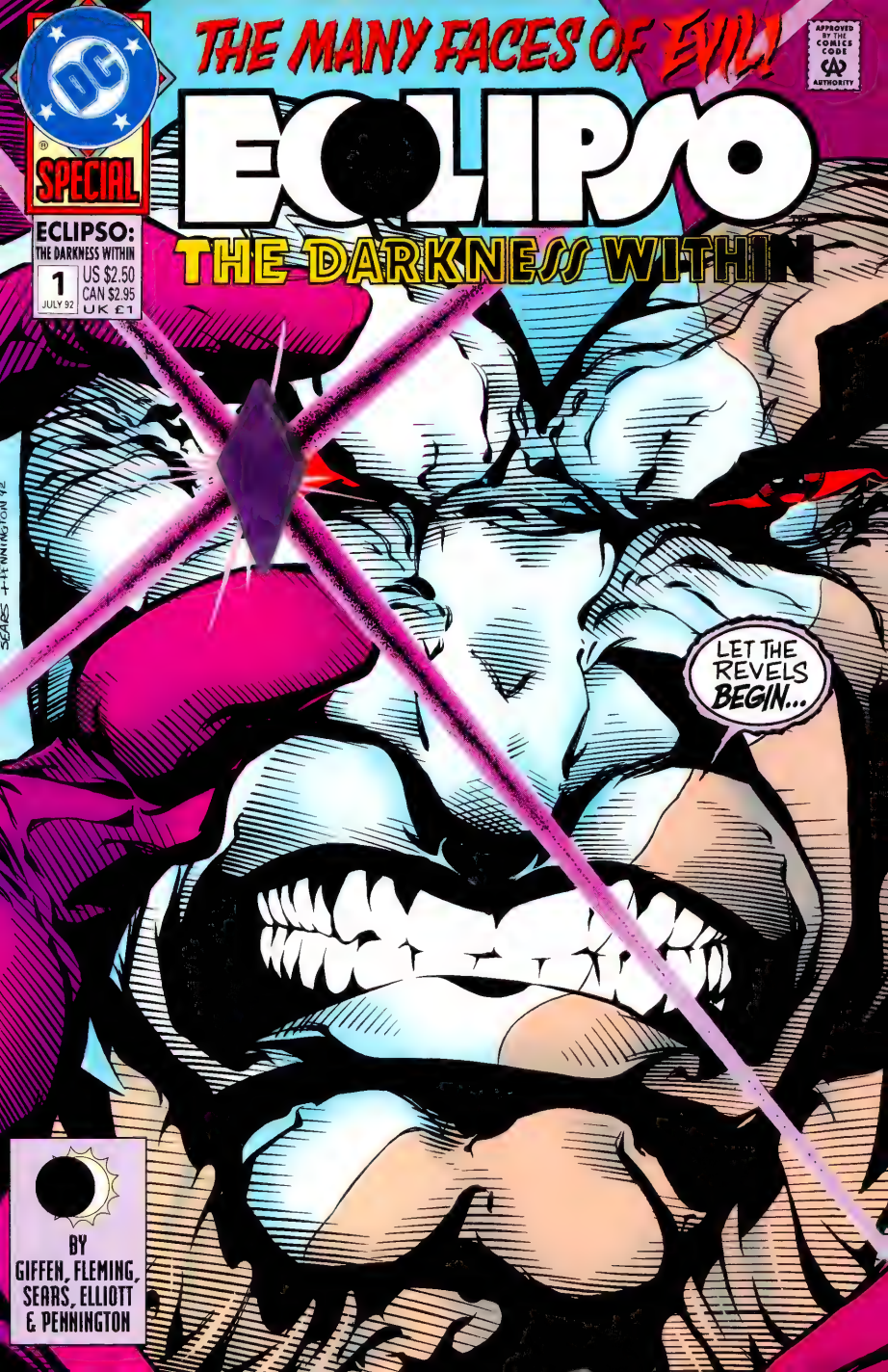
"Enduring the Night!", first appeared in Superman Annual issue #4, released August, 1992
Dan Vado (writer), Joe Quesada (penciller), Scott Benefiel (penciller), Jimmy Palmiotti (inker), Trevor Scott (inker)

"Maximum Eclipse", first appeared in Justice League America Annual issue #6, released January, 1992
Dan Mishkin (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dave Cockrum (inker), José Marzán Jr. (inker)

"Living Daylights", first appeared in Action Comics Annual issue #4, released January, 1992
Dan Vado (writer), Chris Wozniak (penciller), Joe Quesada (penciller), Jimmy Palmiotti (inker), Karl Altstaetter (inker), Karl Kesel (inker), Steve Mitchell (inker), Trevor Scott (inker)

"In Blackest Night", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman Annual issue #4, released October, 1992
Robert Loren Fleming (writer), Bob McLeod (penciller), Joe Quesada (penciller), Bob McLeod (inker), Jimmy Palmiotti (inker)

"Brilliant Men", first appeared in Eclipso: The Darkness Within issue #2, released August, 1992
Keith Giffen (writer), Robert Loren Fleming (writer), Bart Sears (penciller), Mark Pennington (inker), Randy Elliott (inker), Ray Kryssing (inker)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